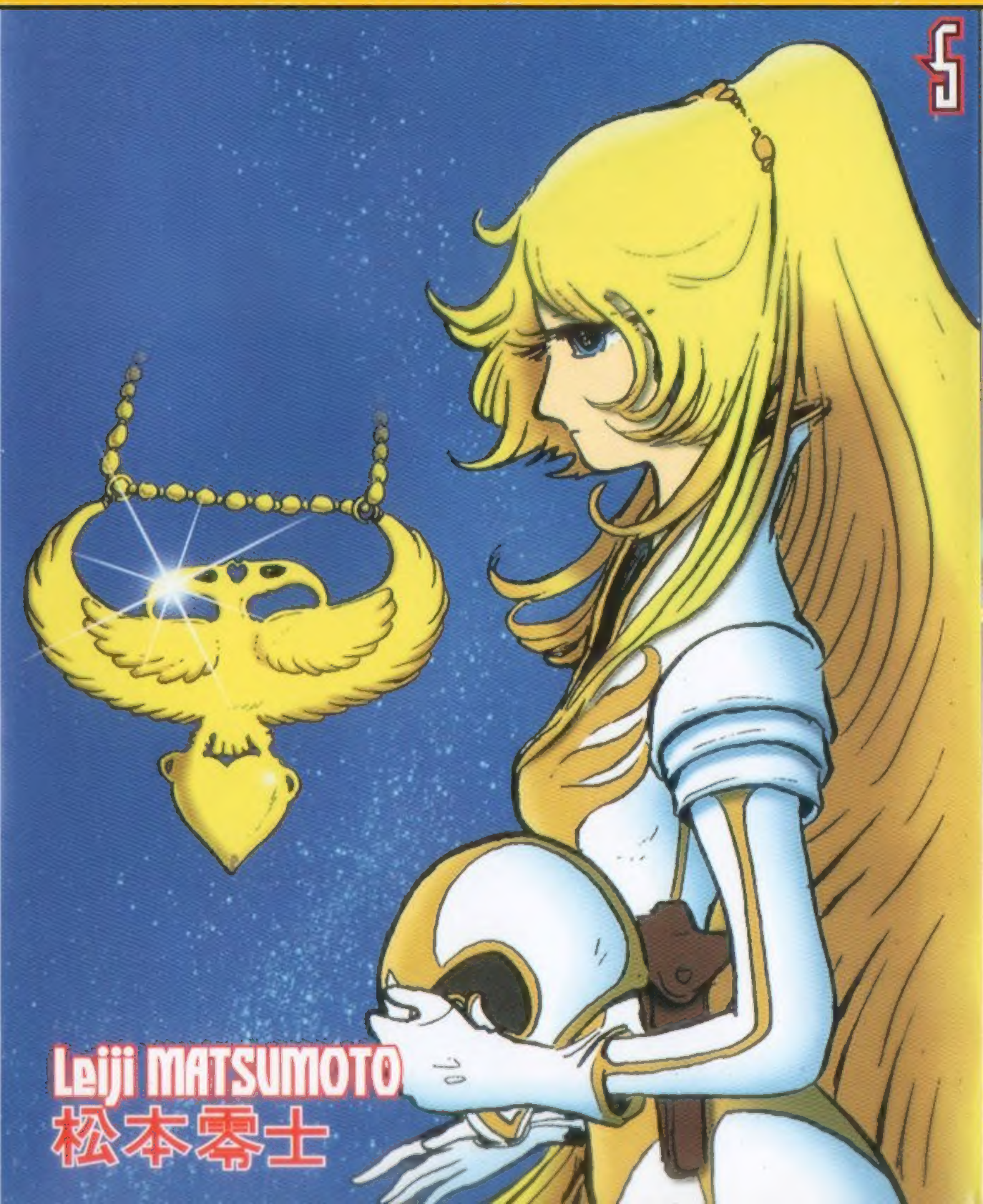
CREATED BY LEIJI MATSUMOTO
INSPIRED BY THE OPERA CYCLE BY RICHARD WAGNER

Der Ring des Nibelungen

THE VALKYRIE



A manga series originally
inspired by
Der Ring Des Nibelungen,
an opera in four parts
composed by Richard Wagner
(1813 – 1883)

Volumes 1 – 8
translated and adapted
by Richard E. Mandel
from the French language version
released by Kana Press

Volumes 9 – 10
re-edited and adapted
by Richard E. Mandel
from the original English release
on the old Shinchosa web site
(www.shinchosa.co.jp)

Introduction by Richard Mandel

To my knowledge, this is the first time that anyone has attempted to bring Leiji Matsumoto's *Harlock Saga* manga series to English speaking audiences. It is certainly the largest and longest manga translation project I have ever undertaken myself.

This is a first draft of my personal translation that I have used in my various Leijiverse researches. It is based on the French language version published by Kana Press in 2002. A "reverse translation," if you will. I translated it using *Power Translator* computer software, then rewrote all of the pidgin English that the computer spit back out into something an English-speaking person could actually read, understand, and enjoy. As such, it is more of an adaptation than a translation, and not very accurate in more places than most of us might care for -- but it gets the job done. I hope it suffices until someone who can speak and read the native Japanese comes along to do a more accurate rendition. Someone had to be first in doing this, and it may as well have been me.

I have taken the liberty of "streamlining" my English adaptation for the sake of those readers not familiar with the Leijiverse in general and the mythos behind this story. Whole chapters of dialogue have been rewritten as a result, and a dozen or so graphic panels which I believe are incorrect have been altered or replaced with alternate ones. Hopefully these editorial changes on my part will help clear up some of the confusion experienced by earlier readers of this work, who got to experience it in the original Japanese. I apologize in advance for any errors or mistakes I might have made during this process.

The Valkyrie

Ring 29 ; A Time Will Come

DESTINIES ARE NOT MADE BY LUCK. THEY ARE FORGED IN THE FURNACE OF TIME -- BOTH IMPLACABLE AND UNBREAKABLE. NO ONE, NOT EVEN THE GODS OF OLD, CAN SWAY THE HAND OF FATE, NOR CHANGE THE WILL OF DESTINY.

EMERALDAS! YOU LOOK JUST LIKE MY DREAM GIRL! ONE DAY, I'LL HAVE YOU ALL TO MYSELF!!

AND THAT SISTER OF YOURS -- MAETEL! SHE'D BE PERFECT FOR HARLOCK!

TOCHIRO! THIS IS THE QUEEN EMERALDAS!! BOTH I AND MY MISTRESS WILL BE WAITING FOR YOU WHEN YOU RETURN TO THIS PLACE!!

SHE HAS THE LONG LIFE OF THE LAMAETEL, AND WAS PULLED HERE FROM A TIME IN YOUR DISTANT PAST.

ONLY A SHORT TIME WILL PASS FOR YOU ... BUT FOR HER, MANY LIFETIMES OF NORMAL MEN WILL PASS ...

REMEMBER THAT, WHEN NEXT WE MEET!!!

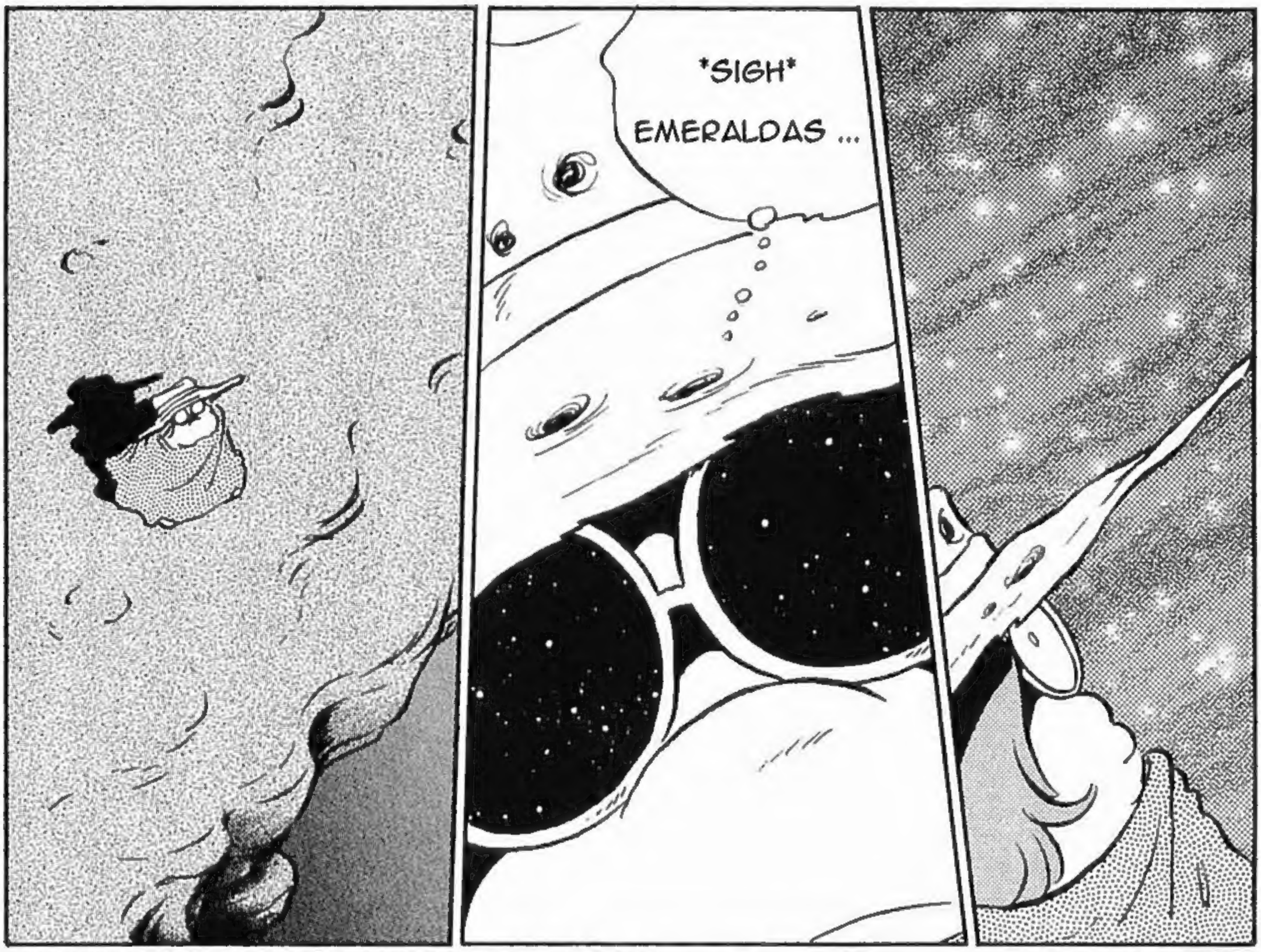
WHEN YOU NEXT SEE EMERALDAS AGAIN, IT WILL BE BUT A SHORT TIME FOR YOU ... BUT FOR HER, CENTURIES WILL HAVE PASSED.

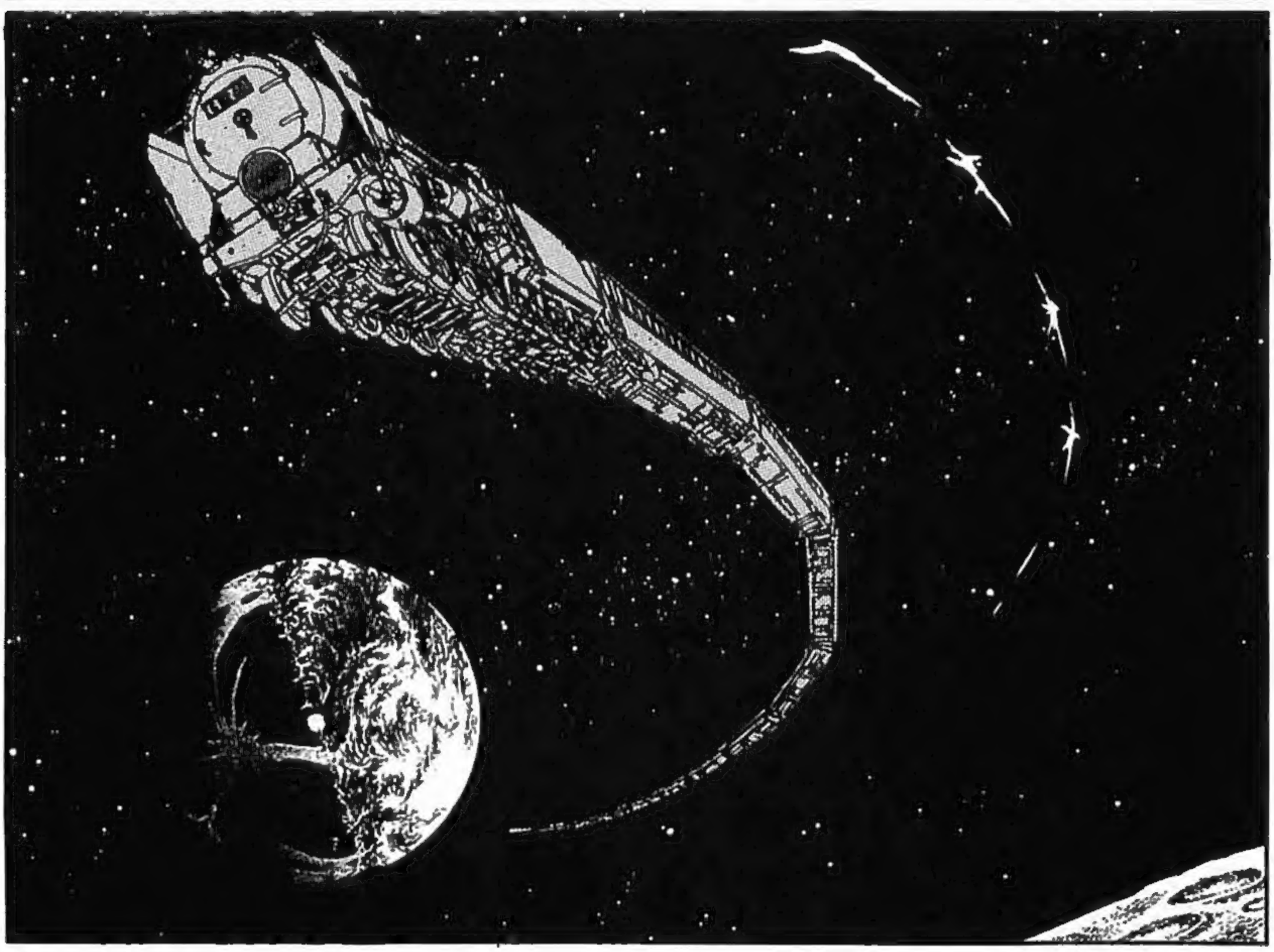
UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN ...

I WILL WAIT FOR YOU ...

AND FOR HER ...

AND FOR HER ....


SIGH
EMERALDAS ...



WHY I DO BELIEVE YOU'RE SMILING, SISTER!

OH, YOU NOTICED? I GUESS I STILL CAN'T HIDE ANYTHING FROM YOU.

I HAD A PRIVATE LITTLE CHAT WITH MY SHIP AFTER IT GOT THROUGH TALKING WITH THE THREE-NINE.

IT SAID IT WOULD BE WAITING FOR ME AND TOCHIRO UNTIL WE GOT BACK.

HOW COULD IT KNOW WE WERE BOTH COMING BACK?

GIVEN WHAT THEY DID WITH THAT OLD SHIP, IT'S NOT SURPRISING.

THEY'VE BEEN GONE FOR QUITE A WHILE.

KINDA MAKES ME WISH I'D-A GONE WITH 'EM.

YES ... I SUPPOSE YOU'RE RIGHT.

WHAT? AND MISS THIS FINE MEAL?

WHERE'S MY BOY? HE DIDN'T CRASH THE THING, DID HE?

AH! THERE YOU ARE, SON.

DID I HEAR YOU RIGHT?! HE'S IN LOVE?!!

HE'S WHAT?!

YES ... AND I'M FAIRLY SURE SHE LIKES HIM, TOO.

IS SHE PRETTY?

SURELY YOU TWO ARE STILL YOUNG ENOUGH TO REMEMBER?

YOUTH IS THE TIME OF LOVE.

IF SHE IS ...

HE'LL HAVE HIS HANDS FULL.

WOULD SHE BE BY CHANCE THE FIERY REDHEAD YOU MET EARLIER?

I'D SAY THAT'S THEIR PROBLEM.

SO ... THIS IS ONE OF THE TWO BOYS MY FATHER SENT ME TO KILL. DID YOU KNOW THE GODS FEAR YOU, YOUNG HARLOCK?

THE BENT RING IS STRAIGHTENING OUT, MY LORD. WE CAN NOW SEND AS WELL AS RECEIVE.

AND YET MY BRUNHILDE HAS STILL NOT TRIED TO CONTACT US. ARE THOSE DAMN METANOIDS INTERFERING WITH HER? WHAT'S HAPPENING ON METABLOODY?

THEN WHAT?

NO, MY LORD. THEY DO NOT SEEM TO HAVE INTERFERED IN ANY WAY.

COULD THIS BE THE DOING OF GREAT HARLOCK AND DR. OYAMA? SURELY NOT!

YOU KNOW THAT YOUR DAUGHTER HAS ADMIRED GREAT HARLOCK FROM AFAR. NOW SHE HAS MET HIM IN PERSON -- AND PERHAPS, JUST PERHAPS, HE HAS WON HER HEART.

IF I MAY SPEAK FREELY, MY LORD?

I THINK YOU MAY BE RIGHT, BUT NOT FOR THE REASON YOU BELIEVE.

FORGIVE ME, BUT MY HEART WARNS IT IS SO.

HOW DARE YOU EVEN SUGGEST SUCH A THING!

WHAT?! THAT'S PREPOSTEROUS! NOT MY BRUNHILDE, THE FIERCEST VALKYRIE OF THEM ALL! SHE GUTS HER ENEMIES AND BATHES IN THEIR BLOOD!! AND NOW YOU CLAIM THAT SHE *MIGHT* HAVE FALLEN IN LOVE -- AND WITH A <u>MORTAL</u> TO BOOT?!

SIGH

UH-OH. HE'S GOT THE LOVE LIGHT IN HIS EYES.

AH! HERE COMES THE GREAT LOVER NOW! HEY, TOCHIRO! BOY?!?

HELLO?! ANYBODY IN THERE? C'MON!!!

BONK!

HEY, TOCHIRO! SNAP OUT OF IT! LOOK OVER THERE!! THAT'S BRUNHILDE THE VALKYRIE!!!

THIS IS *THE BRUNHILDE?* AS IN LEADER OF THE NINE WARRIORS OF VALHALLA WHO RIDE THE HEAVENS?!

W-WH-WHA-WHAT?! A *VALKYRIE?!*

YOU SEE, I WAS SENT HERE TO KILL THE BOTH OF YOU AND YOUR FATHERS ... BUT I'M A WARRIOR, NOT AN ASSASSIN ... AND YOU MIGHT LIKE TO KNOW THAT THE SITUATION HAS CHANGED.

WHY, THANK YOU YOUNG MAN ... BUT I FEAR I WILL NOT BE LEADING THEM FOR MUCH LONGER.

IT'S WHAT YOU *COULD* DO WHEN YOU GROW UP. MY FATHER FEARS THAT, AND SENT ME TO CHANGE THE PAST ... BUT NOW THAT I KNOW FOR SURE THIS IS YOUR DESTINY, I AM NO LONGER WILLING TO GO THROUGH WITH IT.

BUT WHY WOULD YOU WANT TO KILL US? WE HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING TO YOU!

WHAT WE *COULD* DO? WHAT'S THAT?

DESTROY THE ANCIENT GODS, AND VALHALLA WITH THEM.

PINCH ME, SOMEBOY, 'CUZ I MUST BE DREAMIN'! ME AND HARLOCK?! DESTROY THE GODS?!!

AHH-H-H ... YEAH ... SURE!

BUT ENOUGH OF THAT. CAN WE BE FRIENDS, YOUNG MAN?

BUT YOU CHOSE NOT TO DO SO.

AH. THAT EXPLAINS A LOT.

ERDA THE DOOMSAYER, MY MOTHER, SAYS THAT THESE TWO BOYS ARE FATED TO BRING ABOUT THE FALL OF THE GODS. I WAS SENT BACK IN TIME TO KILL THE LOT OF YOU. THAT WAY, IT WOULD NEVER HAPPEN.

I THINK IT'S TIME YOU LEARNED THE WHOLE TRUTH -- OR AT LEAST AS MUCH OF IT AS I KNOW.

WHO AM I TO CHALLENGE THE DESTINIES OF THESE TWO BOYS?

A DESTINY TO FULFILL ...

A FATED FUTURE ...

OUR DESTINY IS TO LIVE FREE, AND TO FIGHT UNDER OUR OWN FLAG!

TOCHIRO ...

HARLOCK ...

WHEN THAT DAY COMES ... I TOO WILL FIGHT UNDER THE FLAG OF FREEDOM!

LISTEN WELL, BRUNHILDE! I WILL FIGHT FOR THE JUSTICE IN WHICH I BELIEVE!

AND AS FOR ME, I WILL FIGHT UNDER NO OTHER FLAG BUT OUR OWN!!

... THE FLAG UNDER WHICH OUR FATHERS FIGHT -- THE SKULL AND CROSSBONES!!!

WE WILL SAIL THE SEA OF STARS TOGETHER, AND FIGHT FOR JUSTICE AND FREEDOM FOR ALL UNDER OUR OWN FLAG ...

AGREED. I COULDN'T HAVE PUT IT BETTER MYSELF.

CHIPS OFF THE OL' BLOCK - EH, PHANTOM?

YET THERE IS NOW A NEW FIGHT, WITH NEW HEROES TO LEAD IT, AND OTHER HEROES TO FOLLOW IN THEIR WAKE. YOUR CAUSE WILL SUCCEED, IN TIME.

I TOO ONCE FOUGHT FOR THE CAUSE OF FREEDOM, BUT MY CAUSE FAILED ....

WHY IS THAT, MIIME?

IT MAKES ME GLAD.

SO MUCH LIKE THEIR FATHERS, THOSE TWO ....

AS THE BOYS SAID, WE TOO WILL FIGHT FOR JUSTICE -- AND FOR A UNIVERSE WITHOUT LIMITS!

DON'T GET ALL GLOOMY ON US JUST YET, MIIME. WE STILL HAVE A LONG ROAD AHEAD OF US.

YES! A TOAST TO THE CAUSE OF FREEDOM AND JUSTICE THROUGHOUT THE UNIVERSE!

I'LL DRINK TO THAT! A TOAST, THEN!

TO THE VIGOR OF YOUTH, AND ALL OF THE INFINITE POSSIBILITIES THAT IT OFFERS THE UNIVERSE!!!

TO THE FUTURE OF THESE TWO BOYS OF YOURS, AND THE FATE THAT THEY ARE DESTINED TO FULFILL!!!

THAT'S A SPACE COCKTAIL! 195 PROOF ENGINE WHISKEY WITH A SHOT OF -- OH, NEVER MIND!!

BOY, THAT'S NOT ONE OF THOSE LIQUOR-LESS BLOODY MARY MIXES YOU DRINK ALL THE TIME AT HOME!

WHAM!!

TOCHIRO, NO!!

OH GAWD, YOU DIDN'T!!!

... WHERE ANYTHING SEEMS POSSIBLE. LET HIM ENJOY IT WHILE IT LASTS.

DR OYAMA ... YOUTH IS A TIME OF JOY AND GREAT EXCITEMENT IN ONE'S LIFE ...

*HIC! *

IMMERRUDASH ... I WANNA DADDIE YER BEEBEH ... !! HEE-HEE-HEE!

... THAT SOMETIMES ... THAT MAKES ME SOMETIMES WISH I WERE A MORTAL.

TO TELL THE TRUTH, IT'S MOMENTS LIKE THESE, WHICH ARE FEW FOR ME AND MY KIND ...

THAT'S NOT THE WORD I'D HAVE USED ... BUT THANK YOU, BRUNHILDE.

YOU TWO MUST BE HAPPY TO HAVE SUCH WONDERFUL CHILDREN.

I WILL NOT FORGET IT, AND YOU ARE ALWAYS WELCOME ABOARD MY SHIP ... MY LADY.

I OWE BOTH YOU AND YOUR SISTERS A GREAT DEBT IN SPARING OUR LIVES.

MAY THE RINGS OF TIME BRING US TOGETHER AGAIN!

FAREWELL, BRUNHILDE! FAREWELL, SISTER VALKYRIES!

... AND TO THE DAY WHEN YOUR SONS GROW INTO TRUE MEN, AND REACH OUT TO CLAIM THE DESTINY THAT AWAITS THEM. FAREWELL!

I LOOK FORWARD TO THAT DAY ...

TO THE FUTURE!

TO THE FUTURE ...

TOCHIRO ...

WE WILL MEET AGAIN.

TO THE FUTURE!

NO ONE CAN SWAY THE MIGHTY HAND OF DESTINY. IT IS THIS THAT IS THE TRUE MOVER OF ALL EVENTS IN THE UNIVERSE. IT HAS DECREED THAT A MAN NAMED HARLOCK WILL ARISE IN THIS ERA TO BECOME A GREAT HERO, AND HIS SON THE GREATEST OF THE AGE. THE RIDE OF THE VALKYRIES FROM METABLOODY, HAVING REFUSED WOTAN'S ORDER TO KILL THESE MEN, STAND IN TESTAMENT TO THIS DESTINY. THOUGH HE IS YET FATED TO LABOR FOR A WHILE LONGER UNDER HIS FATHER'S MIGHTY SHADOW, THE DAY OF THE YOUNGER HARLOCK IS NIGH AT HAND.

The Valkyrie

Ring 30 ; Shock Cannon

WHAT'S THE MATTER, TOCHIRO? YOU'RE NOT EATING.

IT'S THAT OLD SHIP. IT DIDN'T WANT TO LEAVE.

TRYING TO LOVE VIA TIME TRAVEL IS A BITCH, ISN'T IT?

IT SAID IT HAD TO WAIT FOR EMERALDAS TO COME BACK, AND THAT WOULDN'T BE FOR YEARS IN HER TIME.

YET THE PATHS OF TOCHIRO, EMERALDAS, AND THE ANCIENT SHIP KNOWN AS THE QUEEN EMERALDAS ARE DESTINED TO CROSS AGAIN ... AND SOONER THAN FOR THE LOVESTRICKEN TOCHIRO MIGHT HOPE.

... WE WILL MEET AGAIN ...

I WILL WAIT FOR YOU, TOCHIRO ... WE WILL MEET AGAIN, I ASSURE YOU ... THIS IS OUR SHARED DESTINY, MY FRIEND ...

BUT I DON'T WANT TO BE OLD AND GRAY WHEN THAT HAPPENS!

WE'LL SEE THEM AGAIN, TOCHIRO. DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.

YOU WILL NOT BE OLD AND GRAY, YOUNG ONE ...

YOU MUST BEAR THE PAIN IN YOUR HEART, AND WAIT FOR THE PROPER TIME ...

... WHEN WE WILL MEET AGAIN.

THAT'S GOOD TO HEAR.

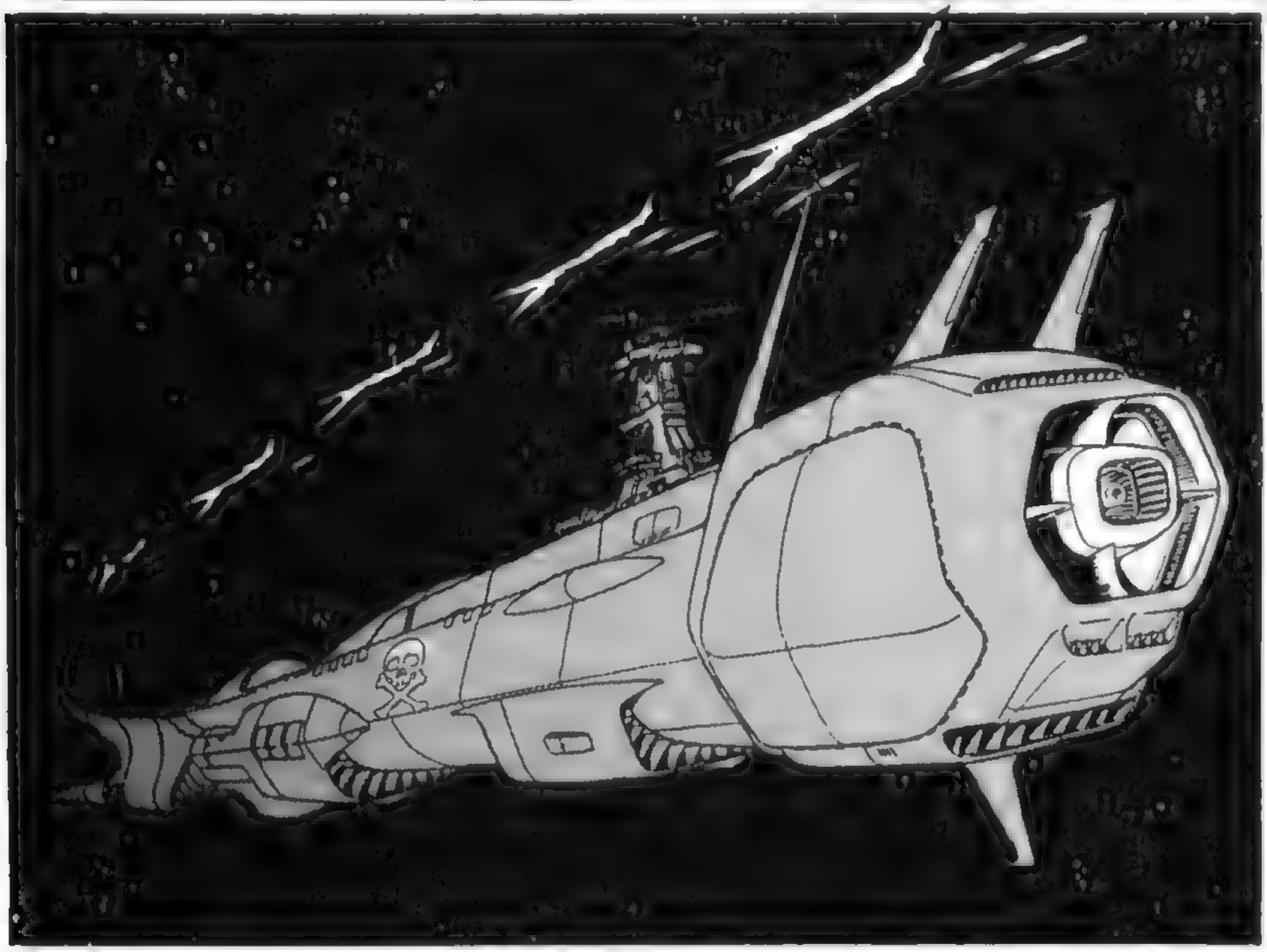
DAD SAID WE'RE GOING BACK THERE AS SOON AS THIS BUSINESS IS OVER.

I'LL BE THE BEST SPACE ENGINEER THAT EVER LIVED!!!

SO IN THE MEANTIME, UNTIL WE GO BACK, I'M GONNA STUDY TWICE AS HARD!

ME TOO ... BUT THERE'S ALWAYS THE LAB! WANNA GO BLOW SOMETHING UP?

I JUST WISH IT DIDN'T TAKE SO LONG TO LEARN.



WHOOP! WHOOP!

WHOOP! WHOOP!

BATTLE STATIONS!! ALL HANDS, MAN YOUR BATTLE STATIONS!!!

WHAT IS IT?

... 30 DEGRESS OFF OUR STARBOARD BOW. SHOCK CANNON LOCKED AND LOADED, WEAPONS RUNNING HOT. RANGE, 15 MEGAMETERS. MASS OF TARGET ... LET'S SEE ... 200,000 GROSS TONS.

UNKNOWN VESSEL FIRING ON US ...

PERHAPS A STEALTH MODE, OR TEMPORAL SHIELDING?

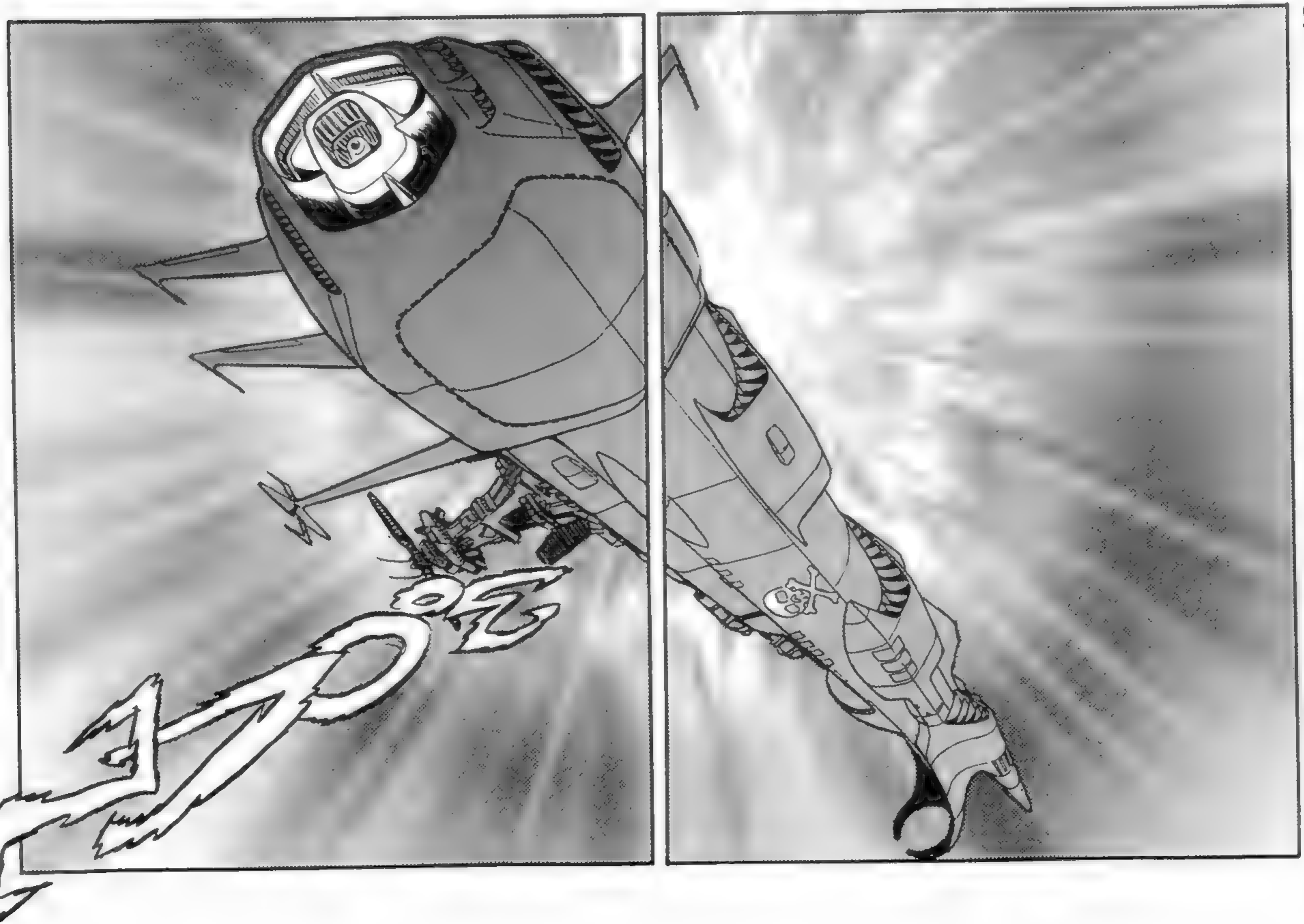
STRANGE, FOR IT TO JUST POP UP LIKE THAT AND OPEN FIRE ...

INCOMING! FIVE SECONDS UNTIL IMPACT, HARLOCK!!

CAN WE HANDLE IT, DR. OYAMA?

NOT ENOUGH TIME FOR COUNTER-MEASURES.

WE'LL SOON FIND OUT!

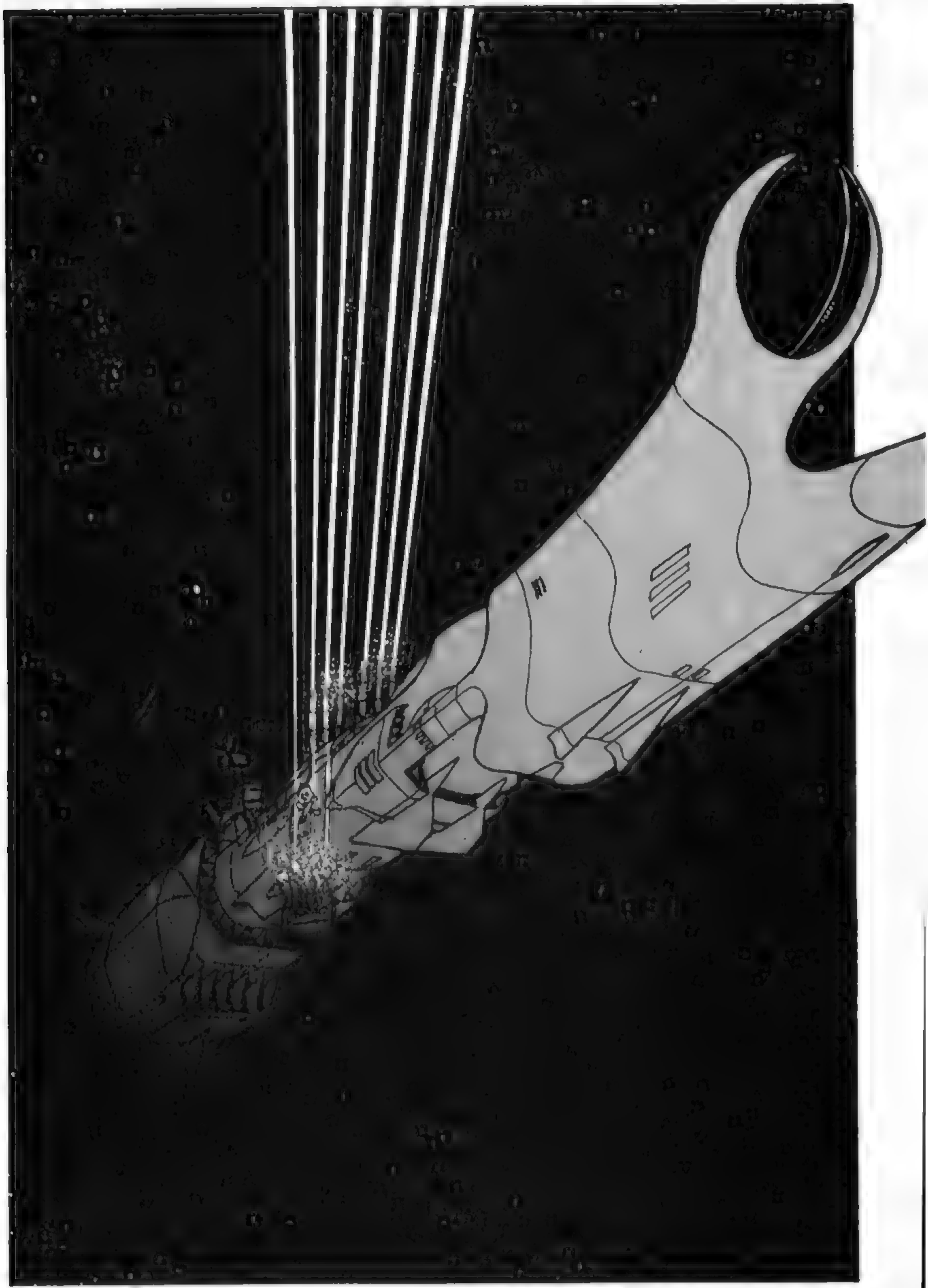

ZOE

ENGINE ROOM HIT, SIR! SOME LIGHT DAMAGE, BUT NOTHING WE CAN'T HANDLE!

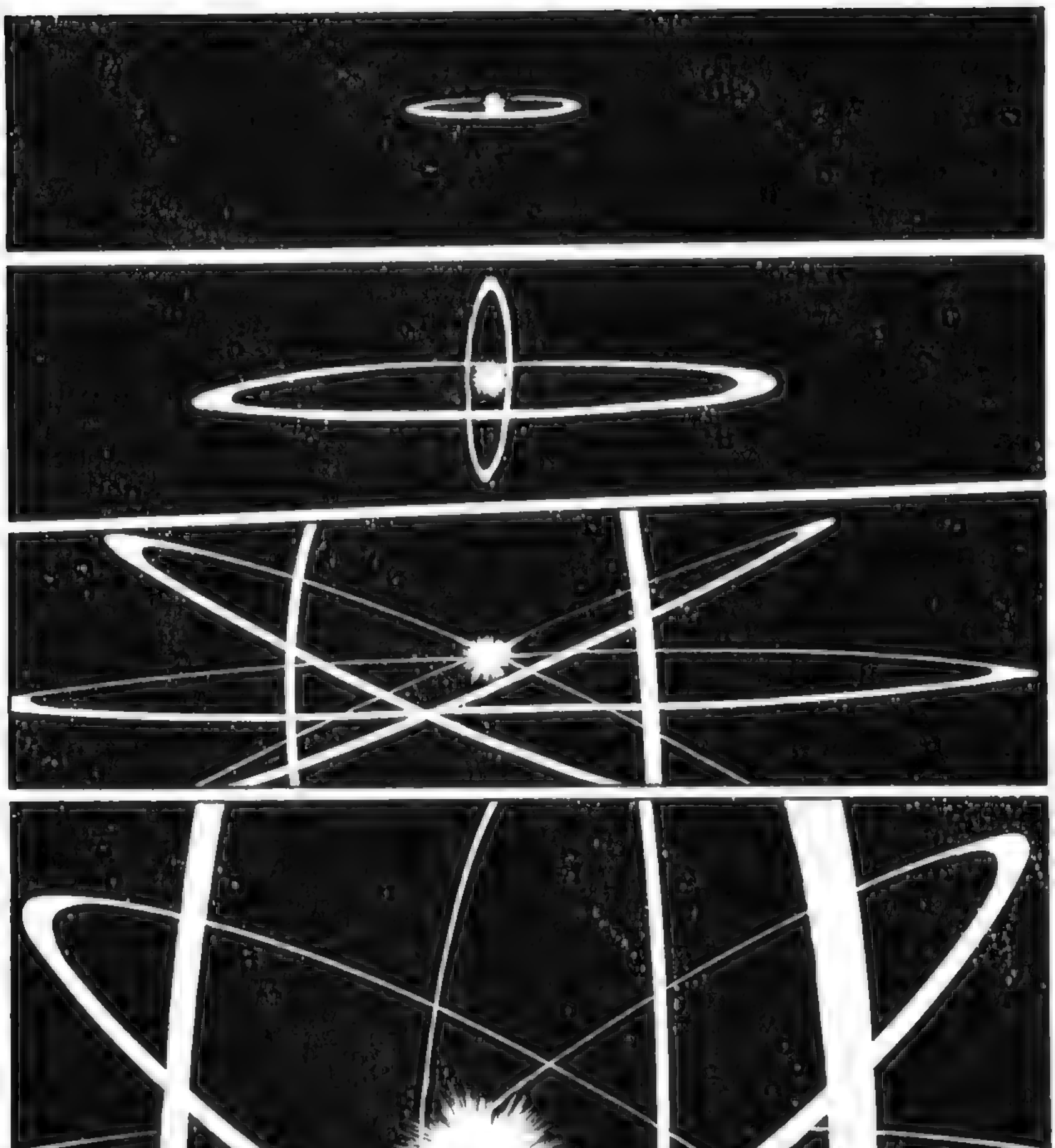
I'LL MAKE 'EM THINK TWICE ABOUT TRYING THAT TRICK AGAIN!

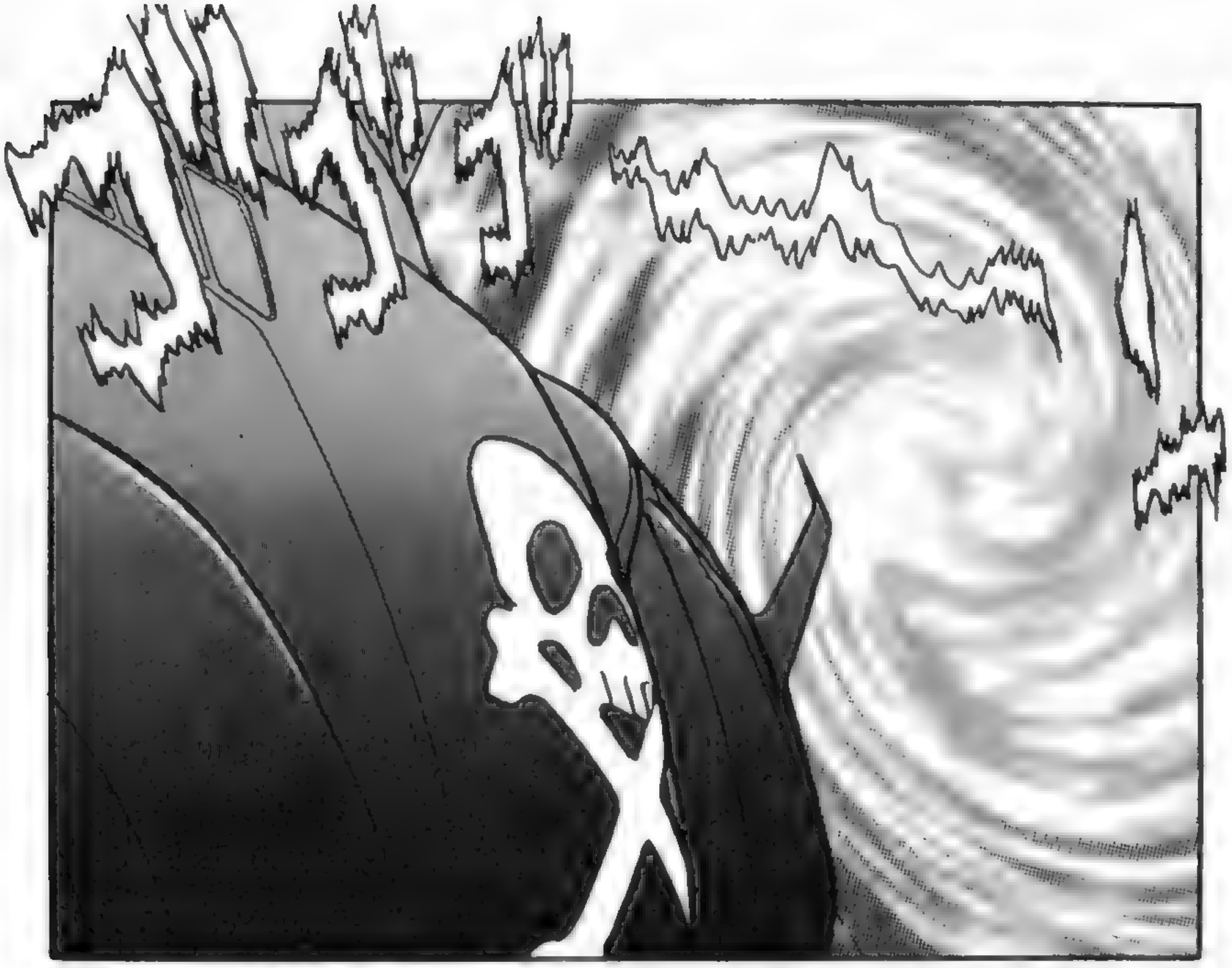
TARGETING OUR MAIN ENGINES. I WOULD HAVE DONE THE SAME IN THEIR PLACE. WISE MOVE.

ALL GUNNERS! SHOCK CANNON, THREE SALVOES! READY ... FIRE!!!

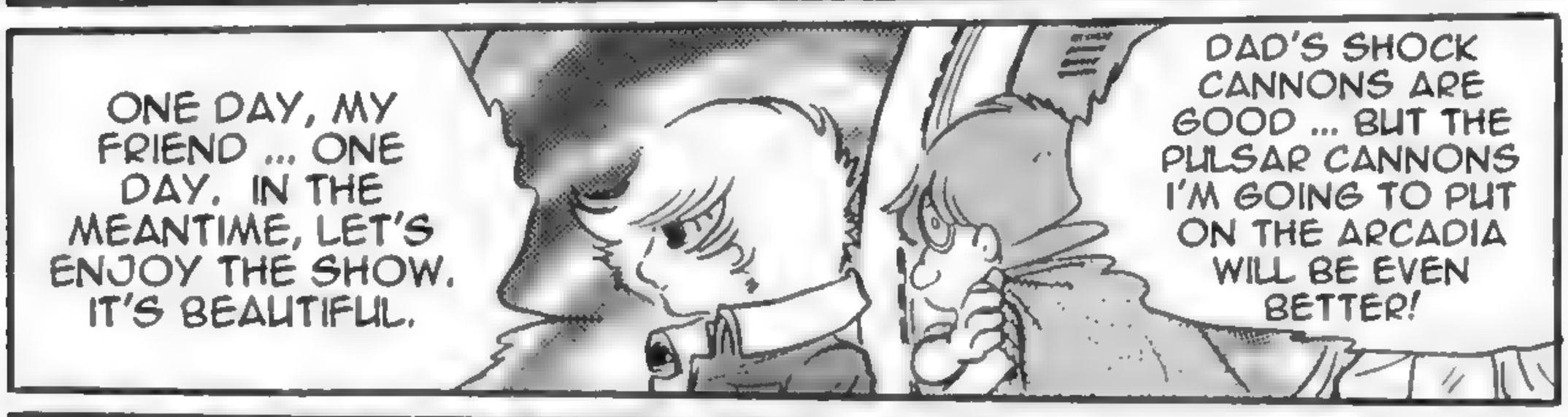


WE'LL KNOW SOON ENOUGH.
DID YOU GET THEM?




WHOOSH

BET THEY DIDN'T KNOW HOW POWERFUL MY NEW SHOCK CANNONS WERE!
HELIUM-3 EXPLOSION. THAT WAS A METANOID SHIP.


ONE DAY, MY FRIEND ... ONE DAY. IN THE MEANTIME, LET'S ENJOY THE SHOW. IT'S BEAUTIFUL.
DAD'S SHOCK CANNONS ARE GOOD ... BUT THE PULSAR CANNONS I'M GOING TO PUT ON THE ARCADIA WILL BE EVEN BETTER!

I SEE IT!
LOOK ... THERE'S SOMETHING SILHOUETTED BY THE EXPLOSION.

IT'S THE THREE-NINE! IT MUSTN'T HAVE GONE BACK THROUGH THE TIME KNOT YET!

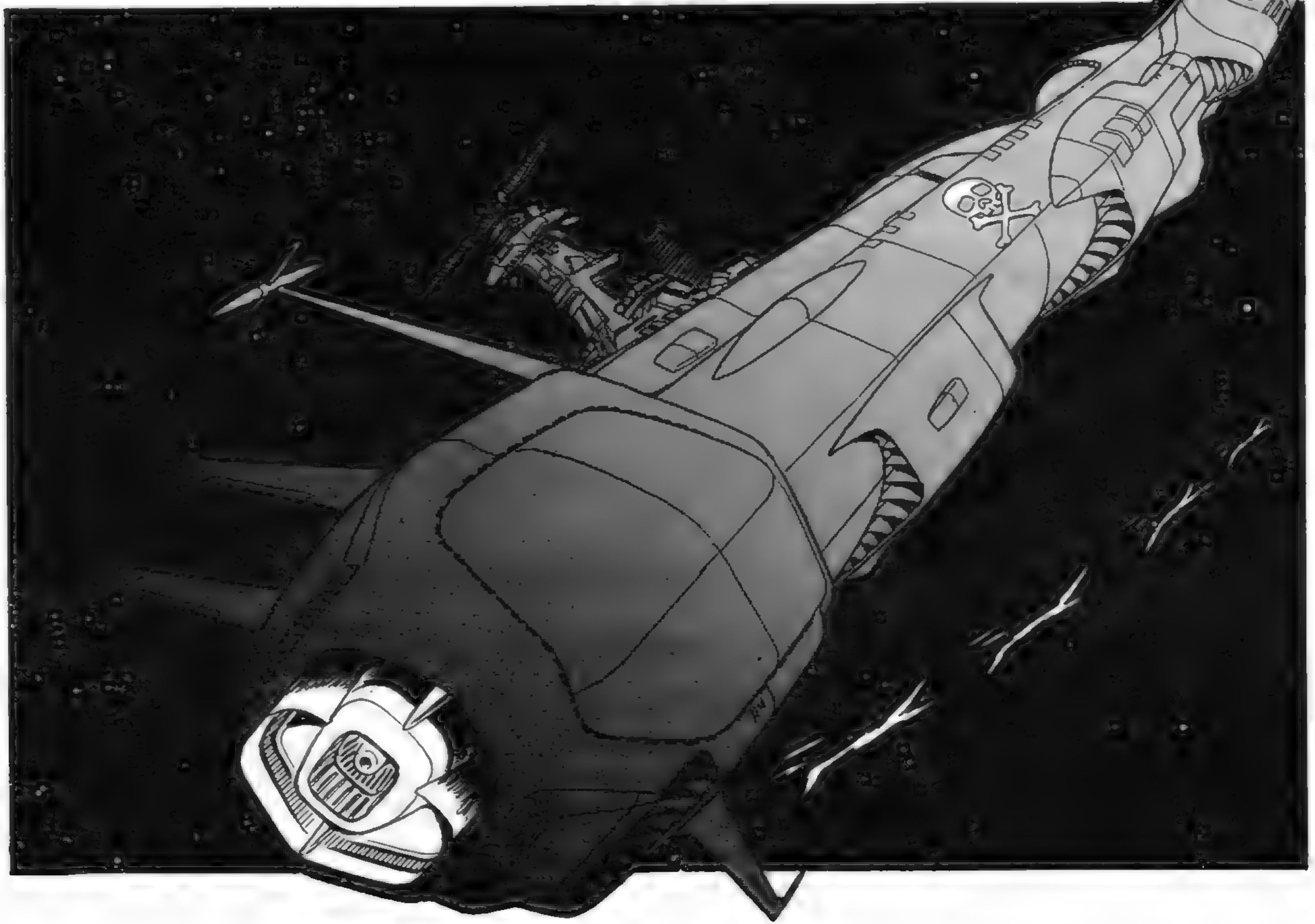
I'M SURE THEY'LL HAVE IT FIXED IN NO TIME.

LOOKS LIKE THEY TOOK SOME DAMAGE.

YES. I KNOW.

YOU KNOW, OF COURSE, THAT WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO SOME DAY FIGHT THOSE SAME IDIOTS THAT ARE TRYING TO TANGLE WITH THE DEATH SHADOW.

WHEN THAT TIME COMES, WE'LL BE SIDE-BY-SIDE WITH OUR TWO NEW FRIENDS OVER THERE. I CAN'T WAIT FOR THAT DAY!



SHE'S ALREADY TAKEN HIS HEART ....

DOWN, BOY! JUST BE GLAD YOU GOT THAT LAST LOOK AT THEM, OKAY?

HULL BREACH IN THE ENGINE ROOM. FROM THE BATTLE, I'D GUESS.

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

THE ALARM AGAIN. THIS DOESN'T SOUND GOOD.

KA-BOOOMMM!!!

OH, SHIT! THAT'S *INSIDE!!!*

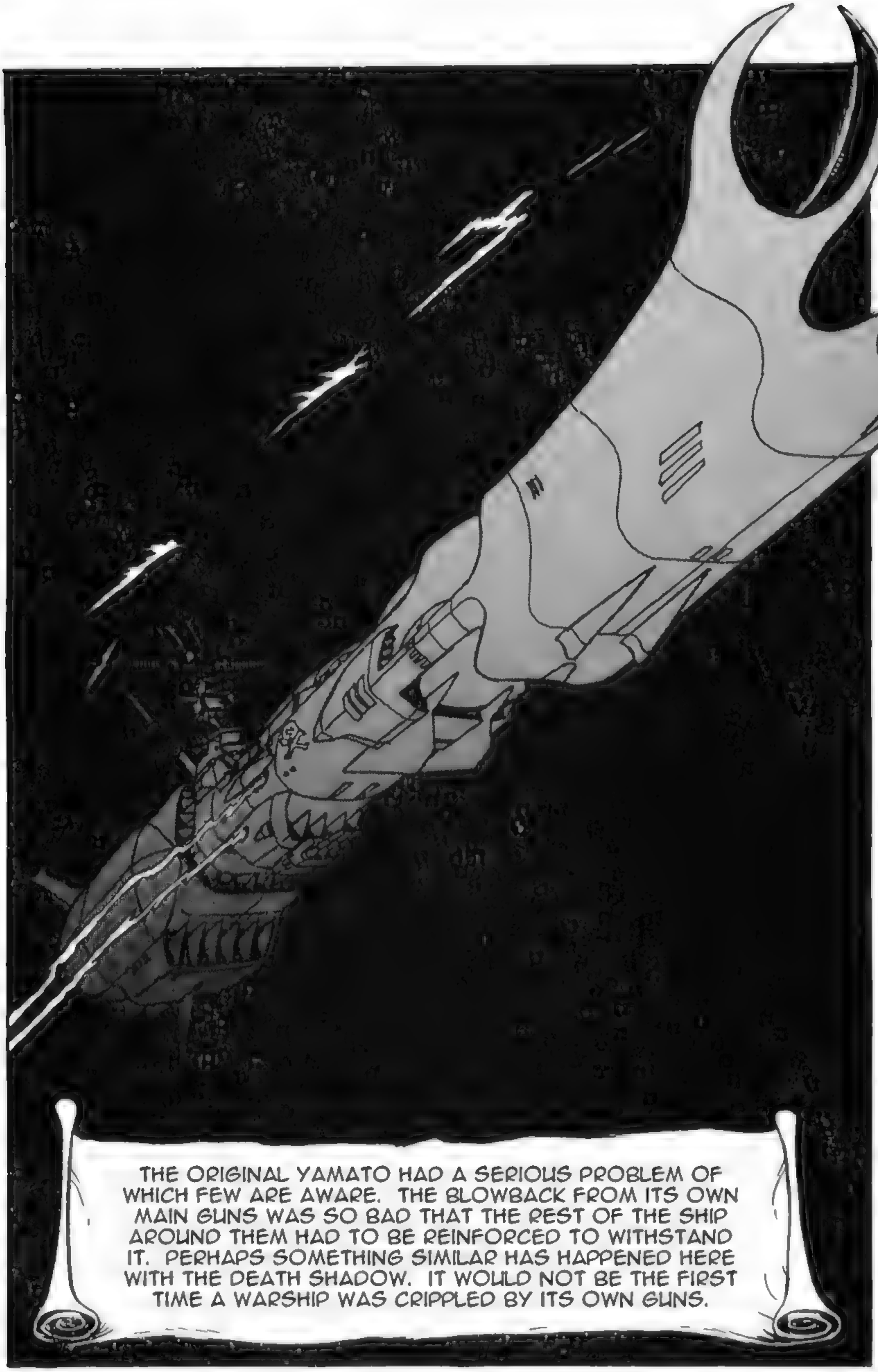
SECOND TURRET ENERGIZER ROOM! DECK THREE!!!

IT'S THE MAIN ENERGIZER FOR BETA TURRET. BLOWN TO HELL. LOOKS LIKE IT MAY HAVE TOOK OUT ALPHA TURRET'S, TOO.

DR. OYAMA! FIRE CONTROL TEAM BAKER HERE! IT'S ALL GONE, SIR! ALL OF IT!!

THOSE TEKTITE WALLS SHOULD HAVE SLUFFED OFF MOST OF THE BLAST. DAMNIT! IT'S MY FAULT! WE'RE UNDER-GUNNED NOW!!

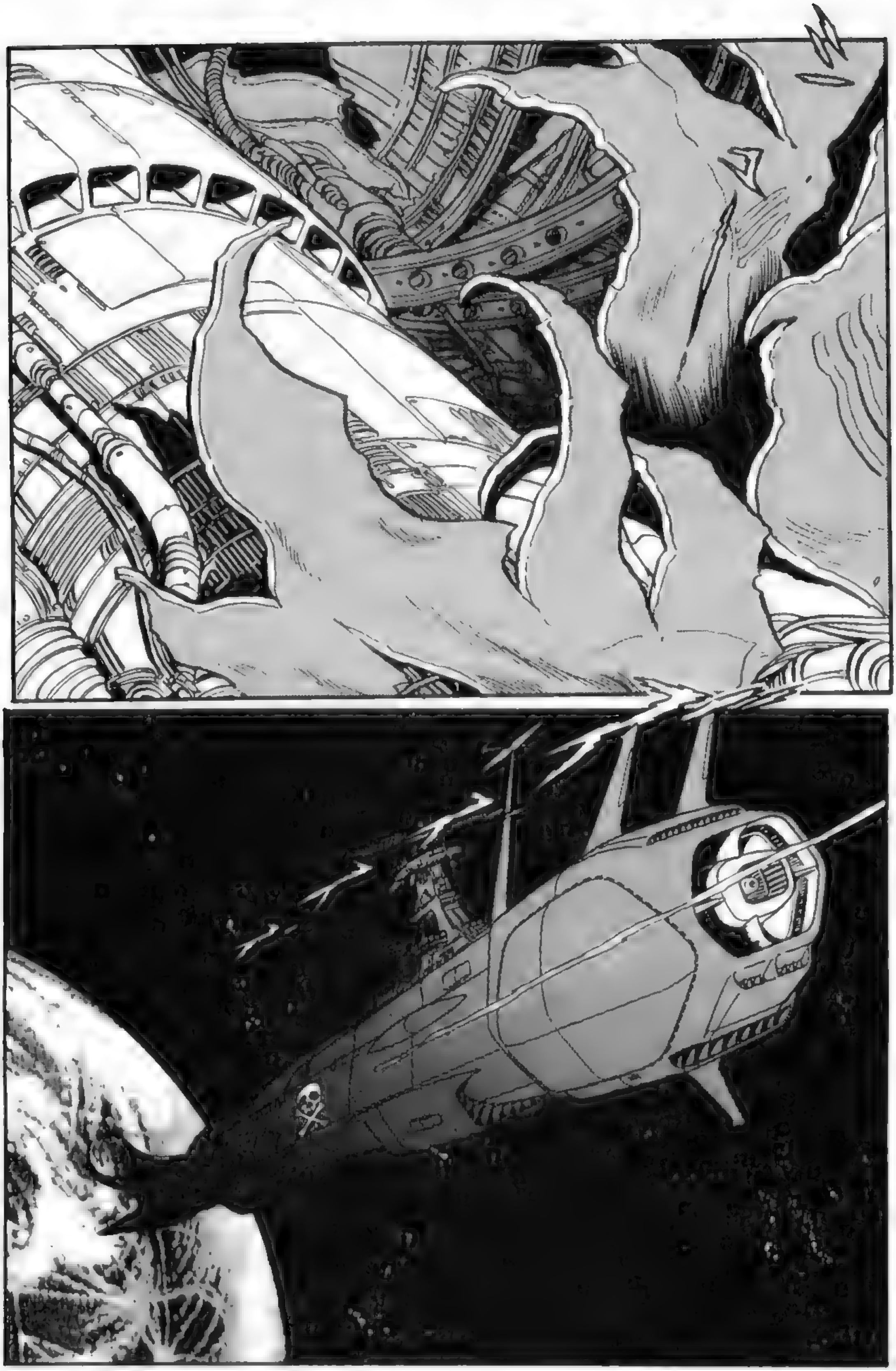
ALL RIGHT, GET THAT FIRE UNDER CONTROL, LADS! GOOD LUCK! OUT.


THE ORIGINAL YAMATO HAD A SERIOUS PROBLEM OF WHICH FEW ARE AWARE. THE BLOWBACK FROM ITS OWN MAIN GUNS WAS SO BAD THAT THE REST OF THE SHIP AROUND THEM HAD TO BE REINFORCED TO WITHSTAND IT. PERHAPS SOMETHING SIMILAR HAS HAPPENED HERE WITH THE DEATH SHADOW. IT WOULD NOT BE THE FIRST TIME A WARSHIP WAS CRIPPLED BY ITS OWN GUNS.

The Valkyrie

Ring 31 : The Unseen Enemy

WELL, THAT EXPLAINS WHY I NEVER HEARD OR FELT THE THIRD SALVO GO OFF ....



WHAT? IT NEVER FIRED?!

YOUR PARDON, SIR. THE THIRD SALVO IS STILL IN THE GUNS.

WELL, EJECT THE CHARGE, BEFORE WE BLOW OFF THE GUN TURRETS, TOO!!!

NO, SIR. WHEN THE ENERGIZER BLEW, THE SYSTEM SHUT DOWN.

TELL THE DAMAGE CONTROL PARTIES TO LOOK FOR MISSILE PIECES -- ANYTHING THAT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE IT BELONGS IN THERE!

SO IT WASN'T A BLOWBACK, LIKE I FEARED. I KNEW I HAD DESIGNED THOSE NEW SHOCK CANNON BETTER THAN THAT.

IT'S GOING TO BE A WHILE BEFORE I CAN GET THE MAIN GUNS WORKING AGAIN. I'LL HAVE TO TEAR APART HALF THE LAB TO DO IT. DAMNIT ... DAMNIT IT ALL TO HELL!! I SHOULD HAVE GUESSED THEY MIGHT BE ABLE TO PULL OFF SOMETHING LIKE THIS!!!

HARLOCK ...

LOADED WITH HELIUM-3, TOO. GOOD THING THAT ONE MISSED THE ENGINE ROOM.

SO YOU'RE SAYING IT WAS PROBABLY A METANOID MISSILE WITH A DELAYED-ACTION FUSE?

HEY! I'M READING LIFE SIGNS!! A METALLIC LIQUID LIFE FORM!!!

AND IT'S COMING FROM WHERE THE EXPLOSION WAS! COULD IT BE SOMETHING FROM THE METANOIDS?

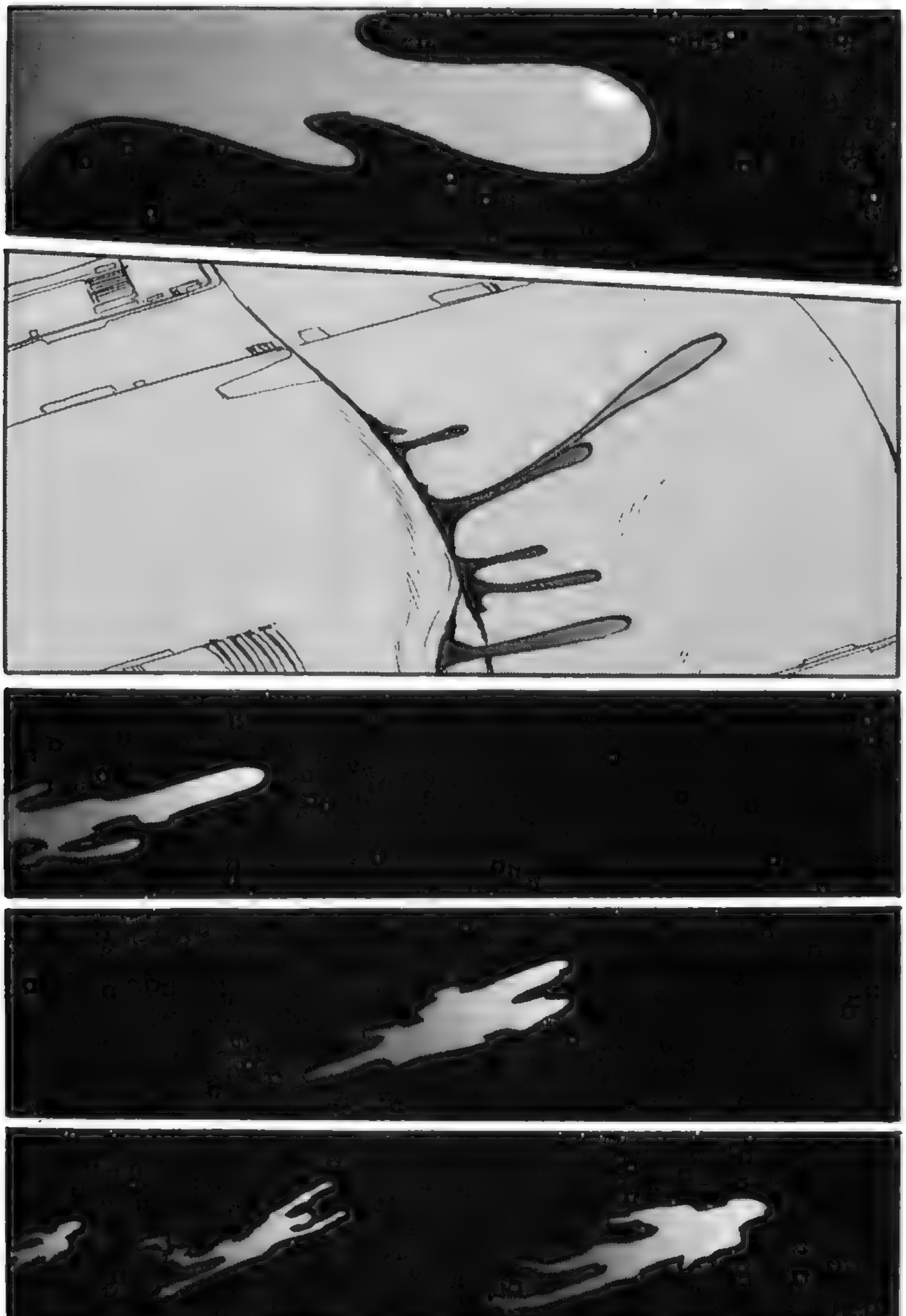
WHAT IS THAT STUFF?

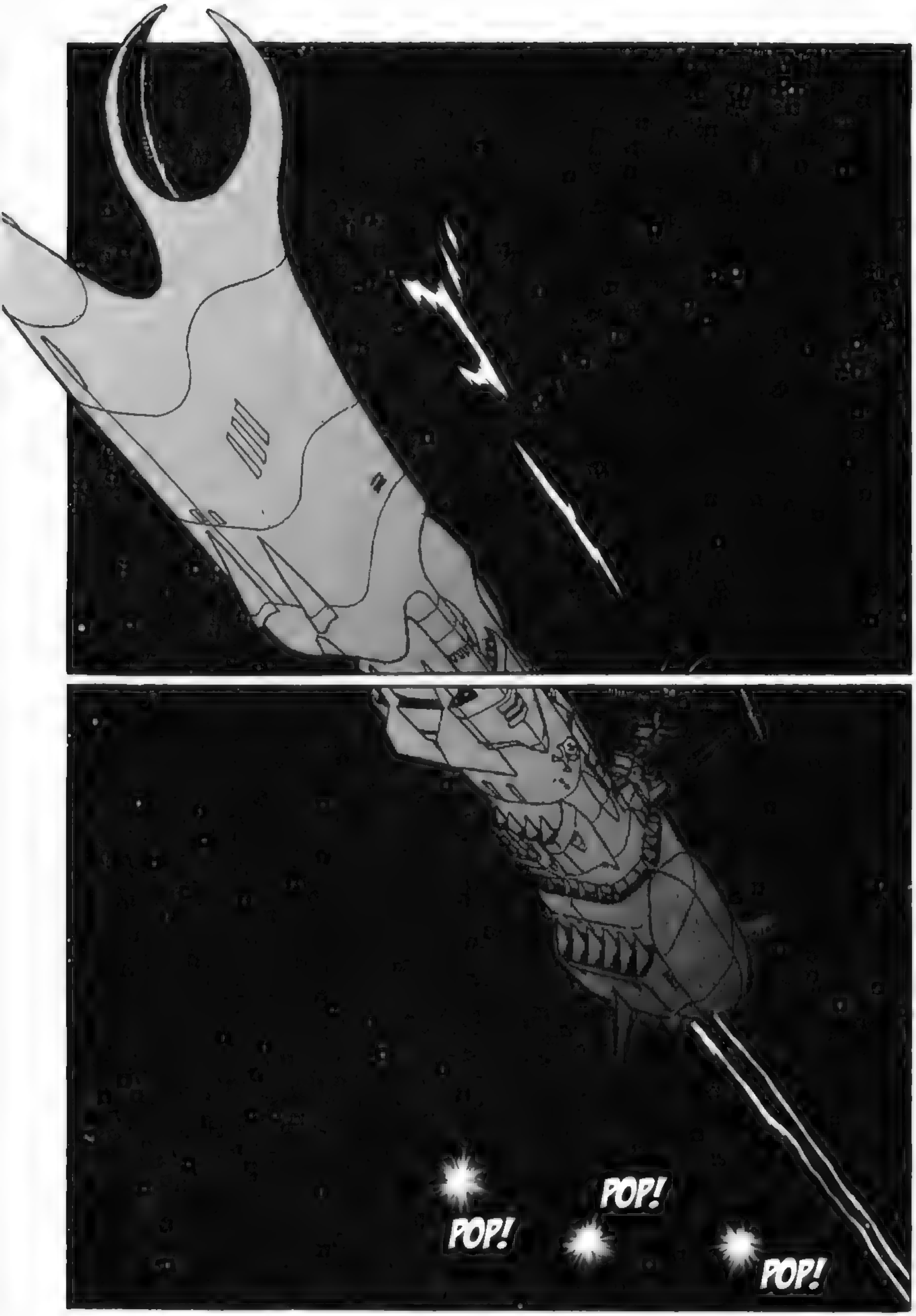
WHATEVER IT IS, IT'S NOT FROM THE SHIP.

A ONE-MAN SUICIDE SHIP ... HOW PATHETIC! THERE IS NO HONOR IN SUCH A DEATH.

SO ... NOT A SIMPLE MISSILE AFTER ALL ... MORE LIKE A *BAKA*, OR MANNED V-1 MISSILE.

THERE IT GOES.




POP!
POP!
POP!

... AND DAMAGED THE SHIP OF GREAT HARLOCK. ARE YOU RECEIVING MY SIGNAL, VALHALLA?

SIR, I'VE REGAINED CONTACT WITH SABELLA. SHE'S ON AN UNUSUAL FREQUENCY.

DAMAGED IT? I HOPE THAT WAS BRUNHILDE'S DOING!!

WHAT ARE YOU AND YOUR SISTERS UP TO? WAS ERDA RIGHT ABOUT YOU?

AH, MY SWEET BRUNHILDE ...

I HAVE, MY LORD. THEY ARE IGNORING MY CALLS.

TRY TO RAISE THE VALKYRIES AGAIN.

I KNOW THEY ARE RECEIVING ME, BUT THEY REFUSE TO ANSWER. I DO NOT KNOW WHY ....

I'M WORRIED ABOUT TOCHIRO ...

WELL, WE'VE MADE IT BACK TO OUR OWN TIME ... WHAT'S WRONG?

... THAT WAS NO ORDINARY WARSHIP. OH, IF ONLY WE COULD GO BACK AND HELP THEM!

THAT SHIP THAT ATTACKED THEM, RIGHT BEFORE WE PASSED BACK THROUGH THE TIME KNOT ...

YES ... I KNOW. I'M JUST GOING TO HAVE TO WAIT FOR THE NEXT TIME ... WHENEVER THAT IS -- AND THE OLD SHIP SAID THERE *WOULD* BE A NEXT TIME.

IT'S OUT OF OUR HANDS NOW. WE COULDN'T GO BACK EVEN IF WE WANTED TO, SISTER.

I WONDER ... DOES TRUE BEAUTY ALWAYS RESIDE ON THE INSIDE, WITH THE SOUL?

HE'S AN UGLY LITTLE MAN, AND YET HE STIRS MY HEART LIKE NO ONE ELSE ....

I AM THE QUEEN EMERALDAS ...

I WAIT FOR THE DAY WHEN MY MISTRESS RETURNS ...

I AM THE QUEEN EMERALDAS ... AND I WILL WAIT.

YOU KNOW, WITH ALL THAT HELIUM-3 TECHNOLOGY OF THEIRS, YOU'D THINK THEY'D FIND A LESS VOLATILE WAY OF USING IT.

IT TOOK DR. OYAMA ABOUT TWO DAYS TO JURY-RIG THE TWO DISABLED MAIN GUN TURRETS SO THEY COULD BE USED AGAIN, ALBEIT ON A LIMITED BASIS AND WITH NO ABILITY FOR RAPID RECHARGE.

MORE THOROUGH REPAIRS TO THEIR ENERGIZERS TOOK A LOT LONGER ... BUT BY THAT TIME, ALL OF THE HULL BREACHES HAD BEEN SEALED, AND THE DEATH SHADOW WAS IN BATTLE-READY CONDITION AGAIN.

LET'S SEE, THAT MAKES THE TWENTY-FOURTH NEW ITEM YOU'RE GOING TO INVENT FOR OUR SHIP.

ONE OF THE THINGS I'M GOING TO DO WHEN I BUILD THE ARCADIA IS TO INVENT A NEW KIND OF STARSHIP ARMOR PLATE.

I'M MORE WORRIED ABOUT THE METANOIDS RIGHT NOW. WHY HAVEN'T THEY FOLLOWED UP THEIR FIRST ATTACK, WHILE WE WERE CRIPPLED? I WOULD HAVE.

I'M SERIOUS! SOMETHING THAT WILL BE ABLE TO SLUFF OFF SOMETHING LIKE THIS! BEND AND THEN BEND BACK, NOT BREAK!!

AND ANSWER ME THIS, GENIUS. WHY ONLY THE ONE MISSILE? THEY COULD HAVE SWARMED US WITH THEM AND THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN THAT. WHY DIDN'T THEY?

MAYBE THEY DON'T LIKE FIGHTING COSTLY OR USELESS BATTLES, LIKE US. THAT'S ALSO A GOOD BATTLEFIELD TACTIC, YOU KNOW.

I DUNNO ...

ATTACK WITH ONLY ONE SHIP, FROM A DISTANCE, NEVER CLOSE FOR THE KILL, AND THEN LIMIT YOURSELF TO A SINGLE SUICIDE STRIKE? THOSE ARE TERRIBLE TACTICS!

SOMETHING'S NOT RIGHT ABOUT THIS WHOLE THING, BUT I CAN'T QUITE PUT MY FINGER ON WHAT IT IS ...

HARLOCK ... DO YOU THINK THERE'S ANY CONNENCTION BETWEEN THE VALKYRIES AND THE METANOIDS?

WE'LL BE READY TO WARP SOON.

I SEE YOUR POINT, BUT STILL ...

THEY BOTH WORK FOR WOTAN, SO THERE MUST BE. IT ONLY FOLLOWS.

SORRY ... DIDN'T MEAN TO OFFEND ... BUT STILL ...

BRUNHILDE AND HER SISTERS ARE OUR FRIENDS NOW! DON'T FORGET THAT!!

SHE SEEMS TO BE HIGH IN THEIR ORGANIZATION.

POINT TAKEN. HELMAZARIA IS A MACHINE KNIGHT AND ALSO A METANOID.

WHICH MEANS SHE WORKS FOR WOTAN.

THOSE BEINGS WHO CALL THEMSELVES "GODS" AND LIVE IN VALHALLA ...

MAYBE THEY SEE THE METANOIDS, HUMANS, AND OTHER "LOWER" SPECIES AS TOYS FOR THEIR AMUSEMENT.

AND WE'RE THEIR CURRENT CHEWTOY? I DON'T LIKE THE THOUGHT OF THAT!

SHIP, FLEET, WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE? WE'RE BETTER THAN THEM! *YAWN* I JUST WISH THEY'D HURRY UP. I HATE WAITING.

THERE'S PROBABLY ANOTHER METANOID SHIP OUT THERE.

FORGIVE ME, MY LORD ... I AM SO TIRED ...

THEN TAKE A BREAK, FREYA. YOU HAVE DONE WELL. ANYTHING ON THAT NEW MESSAGE?

YES, MY LORD. I HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DETERMINE THAT IT WAS A CODED SIGNAL, NOT A NORMAL TRANSMISSION. I AM AFRAID I CANNOT BREAK THE CODE, MY LORD.

COULD IT BE A NEW ENEMY?

THEY'VE STOPPED? WHERE, FREYA?!

POSSIBLY, BRUNHILDE'S SQUADRON HAS STOPPED. THEY SEEM TO BE MOVING TO INVESTIGATE.

THEY ARE GOING TO THE SOURCE, MY LORD - SPATIAL ANOMALY 131313.

THE SOURCE IS SOME KIND OF GIANT STARSHIP.

THE FORCES OF THE ANOMALY MAKE READINGS PRACTICALLY IMPOSSIBLE ...

... BUT OF ONE THING I AM CERTAIN. IT IS NOT A TERRAN VESSEL.

NOT AS AN ENEMY, BUT AS A FRIEND.

I TAKE IT YOU WISH TO SPEAK TO ME.

I ALSO KNOW THAT YOU'VE RENOUNCED YOUR MISSION TO DESTROY GREAT HARLOCK AND DR. OYAMA. YOUR FATHER WILL NOT BE HAPPY.

I KNOW ALL THAT HAPPENED ON METABLOODY.

HOW LONG, I WONDER, BEFORE I AND MY SHIP ARE REUNITED?

IF WE WENT THROUGH ONE KNOT IN TIME, THEN MAYBE WE WILL GO THROUGH ANOTHER.

HISTORY ITSELF AS WE KNOW IT MAY HAVE CHANGED, SISTER, BUT WE'RE STILL THE SAME.

IT SAID WE HAD A LONG JOURNEY AHEAD OF US, MAETEL.

PROPHETIC WORDS, MAETEL! ....

THERE ARE PLACES IN THE UNIVERSE WHERE NOTHING ESCAPES ... NOT LIGHT, NOT GRAVITY, AND SOME SAY NOT EVEN TIME. THEY ARE A NATURAL BY-PRODUCT OF THE CREATION OF THE COSMOS, AND WITHOUT THEM IT COULD NOT HAVE BEEN BORN. EVEN IN THE FUTURE, MEN CONTINUE TO PONDER THEM, AND WILL ATTEMPT TO SOLVE THE RIDDLES THEY POSE FOR ALL TIME ....

The Valkyrie

Ring 32 : Brunhilde the Unpardonable

THERE ARE MANY DIFFERENT KINDS OF LIFE IN THE UNIVERSE, AND ALL OF THEM HAVE DIFFERENT ORIGINS. THEY COME, THEY EXIST FOR THEIR ALLOTTED TIME, AND THEN THEY BECOME EXTINCT. THIS IS THEIR DESTINY ....

IS THAT ALL?

IS THAT WHY YOU ATTACKED HIM?

I'M CURIOUS TO KNOW WHY YOU CHOSE TO DISOBEY YOUR ORDERS TO KILL GREAT HARLOCK AND HIS SON.

THEIR SONS WILL BE EVEN MORE FORMIDABLE ONCE THEY GROW UP.

THOSE TWO MEN, GREAT HARLOCK AND DR. OYAMA, CAN BE FORMIDABLE ENEMIES WHEN PROVOKED.

THAT WASN'T MY DOING. SOMETIMES MY SUBORDINATES TEND TO GET A BIT FANATICAL CARRYING OUT THEIR ORDERS. IT IS THE WAY OF OUR KIND.

AND YET YOU TOO CHOSE NOT TO FIGHT HARLOCK ...

EVEN YOU ARE FORMIDABLE FOR ONE OF YOUR OWN KIND, MACHINE KNIGHT HELLMAZARIA!

... BUT HIDE AND WATCH. I WONDER ....

IT IS LIKELY THAT THEY HAVE BOARDED THE SHIP, MY LORD.

YES, MY LORD.

WHY WOULD SHE DO THAT? IT DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE!

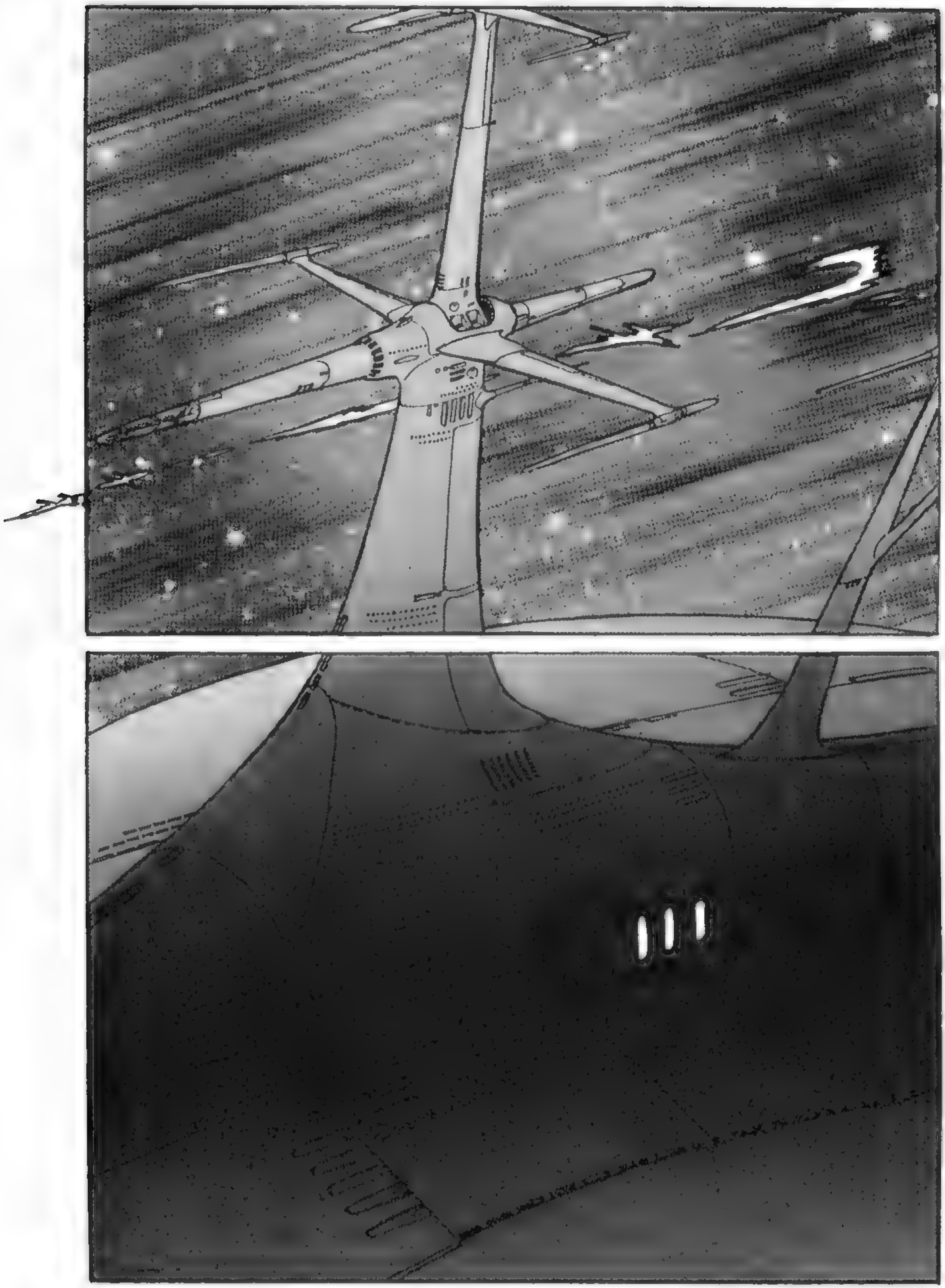
... AND THEN SMASHES HER COMM SO I CAN'T REACH HER ...

FIRST SHE IGNORES MY RECALL SIGNAL ...

I CAN'T IGNORE THIS ANYMORE. I AM GOING TO HAVE TO TAKE ACTION ... BUT WHAT?

SHE HAS A MIND OF HER OWN -- JUST AS YOU RAISED HER.

I DO NOT KNOW, MY LORD ....



... BUT SINCE YOU ARE A METANOID, YOU KNOW THAT SUCH A PAIRING IS AT BEST TEMPORARY.

KNOW WHAT I THINK? I BELIEVE YOU LIKE GREAT HARLOCK ...

... IMMORTALITY. WE OUTLIVE ALL SAVE ONES LIKE US.

THAT'S THE CURSE OF BOTH OUR KINDREDS ...

I'LL NOT DENY IT, BRUNHILDE -- BUT WHY DENY YOUR OWN FEELINGS FOR HIM? YES, I CAN SEE IT. ADMIT IT.

YOU WERE SENT TO THIS TIME AND PLACE TO KILL THOSE TWO BOYS AND PREVENT THE DOWNFALL OF VALHALLA; YET YOU CAN'T GO THROUGH WITH IT FOR THE FATHER'S SAKE. AM I RIGHT?

TOUCHE.

I'VE ALWAYS ADMIRED GREAT HARLOCK ... BECAUSE HE FOUGHT FOR WHAT HE BELIEVED. AND NOW THAT I HAVE ACTUALLY MET THE MAN ... WELL ... I ... MY OWN SENSE OF JUSTICE HAS KICKED IN.

YOU HAVE ME THERE.

... BOTH LOVING THE SAME MORTAL, AND BOTH WITH HELL TO PAY SHOULD MY FATHER EVER FIND OUT. YOU KNOW MY REASONS. MAY I ASK YOURS, HELLMAZARIA? WHY DO YOU CARE FOR A HUMAN?

SO HERE WE SIT, AN IMMORTAL AND A METANOID ...

YOU ARE AS CLOSE AS ONE COMES ON THIS PLANE TO BEING AN IMMORTAL WHAT IS 1000 YEARS TO YOU?

DEATH? YOU, A METANOID, SPEAKS OF DEATH?

MY REASONS ARE MY OWN, AND I'LL CARRY THEM TO MY GRAVE.

YET MY DESTINY IS TO FIGHT THE SONS OF HARLOCK AND OYAMA.

I SEE MY DEATH IN THE FUTURE OF THOSE TWO BOYS. MAYBE NOT BY THEIR HANDS, PERHAPS, BUT IT IS THERE. CALL IT FORESIGHT, IF YOU WILL. PERHAPS IT IS MY DESTINY.

AS YOU SAID, BRUNHILDE ... IT IS NOT WISE TO CHALLENGE THE HAND OF DESTINY.

THEY WHY DO YOU NOT DO WHAT I CANNOT? KILL THEM, AND PRESERVE YOUR FUTURE?

WHEN THOSE TWO BOYS DID WHAT NO ONE ELSE HAD DONE IN 300 YEARS, AND BROUGHT THAT OLD SHIP BACK TO LIFE ... WELL ... IT BECAME CRYSTAL CLEAR TO ME.

THERE ISN'T A POWER IN THIS UNIVERSE THAT CAN STAND UP AGAINST THOSE TWO -- NOT METANOIDS, NOT EVEN THE GODS! AND JUST THINK HOW THEY'LL BE WHEN THEY'RE GROWN!

... THEY HAVE SOME PART TO PLAY IN THE DESTINY OF THOSE TWO BOYS.

THOSE TWO GIRLS ... THE ONES THROWN OUT OF TIME BY MY FATHER'S ACTIONS ...

THAT WOULD EXPLAIN HOW THEY WOUND UP HERE, IN MY TIME.

NOT NOW. LIKE YOU, I WOULD FIND KILLING CHILDREN DISHONORABLE ... AND THEY STILL HAVE A DESTINY TO FULFILL.

EMERALDAS ... MAETEL ... YOUNG HARLOCK AND TOCHIRO ... COULD YOU EVER BRING YOURSELF TO KILL THEM?

ISN'T IT IRONIC? WE BOTH LOVE A MORTAL WE CAN'T HAVE, AND WE BOTH DEFY THE GODS FOR DESTINIES GREATER THAN EITHER OF US. IT'S ALMOST TOO MUCH TO THINK ABOUT.

BUT ONCE THEY HAVE GROWN, I WILL FIGHT THEM TO THE DEATH! THAT TOO IS MY DESTINY.

TRUE.

I DARESAY DARQUEEN WILL BE AS UPSET AT YOUR ACTIONS AS MY FATHER WILL BE ABOUT MINE -- ONCE SHE LEARNS ABOUT THEM.

... AND MAY YOU AND YOUR SISTERS SURVIVE YOUR FATHER'S WRATH.

TO OUR DOWNFALLS. MAY WE BOTH SURVIVE THEM ...

TO OUR RESPECTIVE DOWNFALLS.

LET'S TOAST.

TO FATE ... AND TO DESTINY.

MAY WE MEET AGAIN SOMEDAY!

WE ARE ALIKE, YOU AND I, UNDERNEATH OUR ARMOR AND BADGES OF OFFICE ....

AND HOW DID IT KNOW THE WAY TO VALHALLA ... UNLESS ... !!

FROM WHERE DID THAT ANTIQUE COME?

LORD WOTAN ... PLEASE ... FORGIVE ME ... *SOB* ... I WAS ... I WAS UNABLE ... TO CARRY OUT ... YOUR ORDERS.

SABELLA!!!

WHAT ABOUT BRUNHILDE?! WHAT DID YOU FIND OUT ABOUT HER?

... AND HELLMAZARIA SEEMED TO KNOW MORE THAN SHE LET ON?

SHE HAS ... NO ... INTENTION ... OF ... CARRYING OUT ... ... HER ORDERS ... TO KILL ... THOSE TWO BOYS ....

SHE ... *GASP* ... SHE HAS CHOSEN ... TO DEFY YOU ... MY LORD ...

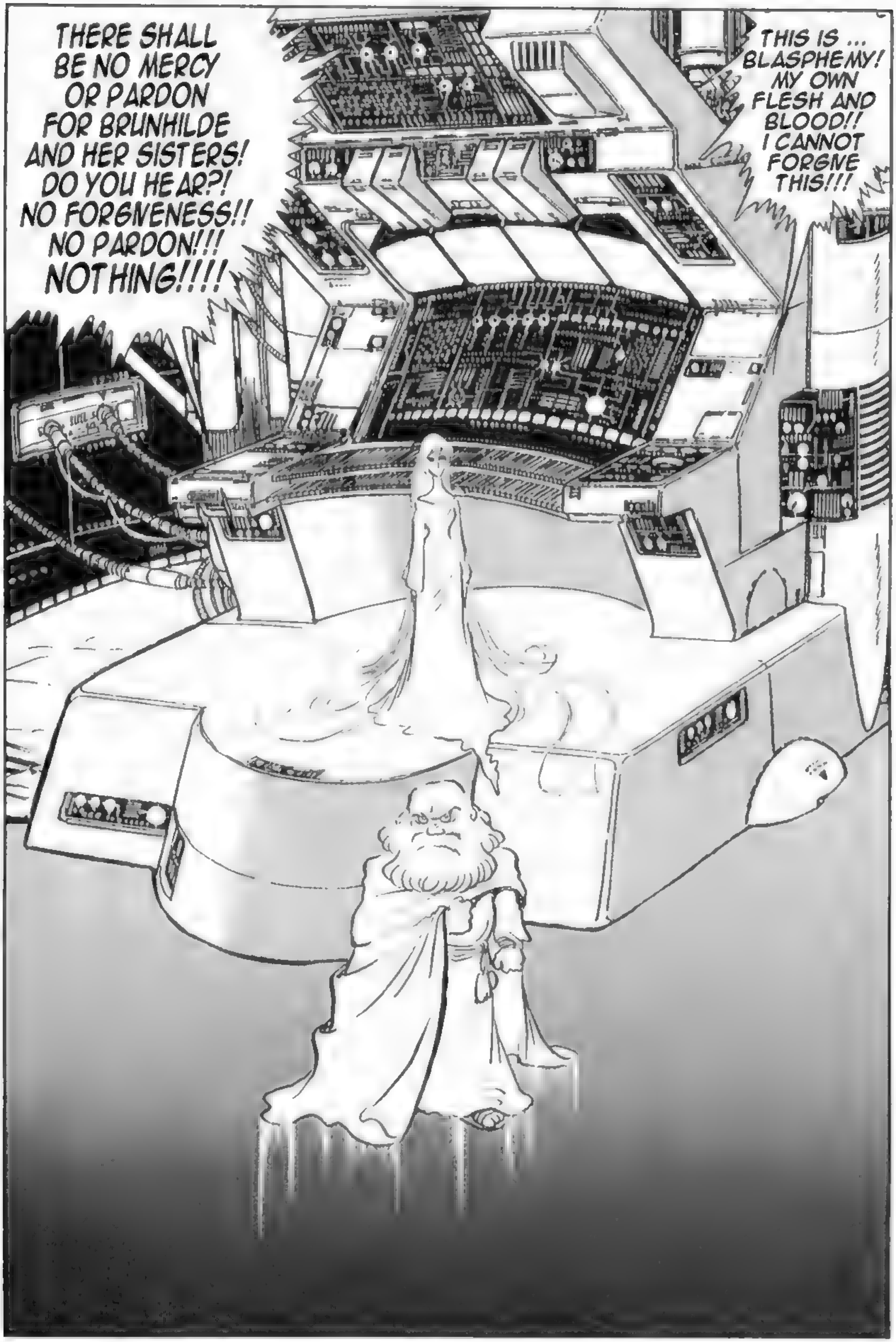
NOT MY BRUNHILDE!!!

SHE WHAT?!?

IT IS TRUE, MY LORD ... *SOB* ... I AM SORRY ... I HAVE FAILED YOU ....

MY OWN BELOVED DAUGHTER ... SHE *DARES TO DEFY THE LORD OF THE GODS?!*

ERDA ... THIS IS YOUR DOING! YOU TURNED HER AGAINST ME!!!


THERE SHALL BE NO MERCY OR PARDON FOR BRUNHILDE AND HER SISTERS! DO YOU HEAR?! NO FORGIVENESS!! NO PARDON!!! NOTHING!!!!
THIS IS ... BLASPHEMY! MY OWN FLESH AND BLOOD!! I CANNOT FORGIVE THIS!!!

MY LORD!

I'LL FIND THAT WITCH AND KILL HER!!!

SHE TURNED MY GIRL AGAINST ME!!!!

I'LL KILL HER WITH MY BARE HANDS!!!

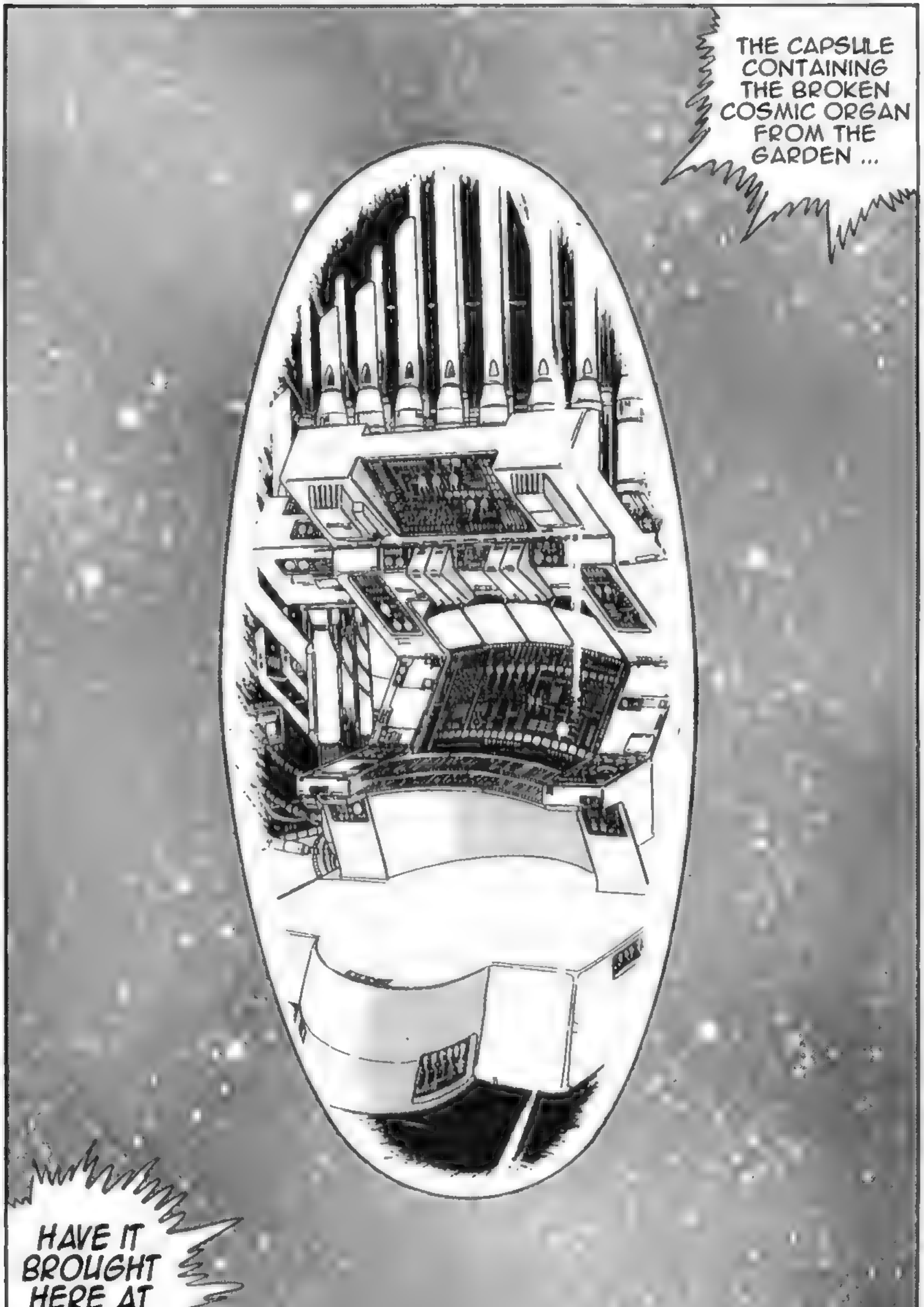
MY LORD ...! WOULD YOU REALLY STOOP SO LOW? CAN YOU DO AS LOKI DID TO BALDER? THINK, MY LORD!!

WHAT?!?! WHAT DO YOU WANT?!

YES ... YOU ARE RIGHT. FORGIVE ME, FREYA ... BUT BRUNHILDE MUST BE PUNISHED.

I SHALL DEVISE A FITTING AND JUST PUNISHEMENT FOR BRUNHILDE AND HER SISTERS ... FOR DEFYING THE WILL OF WOTAN!

YOUR ORDERS, MY LORD?


THE CAPSULE CONTAINING THE BROKEN COSMIC ORGAN FROM THE GARDEN ...
HAVE IT BROUGHT HERE AT ONCE!!!

... OUT OF TIME, AND OUT OF SPACE. BEYOND THE RINGS OF TIME, BEYOND EVEN VALHALLA ...

... NO HOPE OF ESCAPE, NO HOPE OF RESCUE, NOT EVEN FROM HER MOST BELOVED ...

I SHALL IMPRISON THEM IN AN ETERNAL ORBIT ...

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO, MY LORD?

TRAPPED FOR ALL ETERNITY, WHERE NONE SAVE THE GODS CAN REACH HER ...

... WHERE SHE AND HER SISTERS CAN SUFFER ... ALONE.

HEY! WHERE'D THEY GO?

I PICKED UP THE VALKYRIES IN FORMATION HEADING FOR SIEGMUND--

DAMN ... I THINK YOU'RE RIGHT.

REMEMBER GRANDPA'S STAR MAP? I'D SAY THEY WENT BACK TO VALHALLA.

WHICH GIVES US A RATHER USEFUL PIECE OF INFORMATION, WOULDN'T YOU SAY, MY FRIEND?

I'LL REMEMBER THAT, SHOULD I EVER DECIDE TO SELL LIFEPODS DOOR-TO-DOOR.

THE UNIVERSE IS WIDE, MY FRIEND, AND BOTH TIME AND SPACE ARE INFINITE. WHO KNOWS WHEN THAT DAY WILL BE?

YOU KNOW ... I MISS MAETEL AND EMERALDAS ALREADY. I WISH WE COULD SEE THEM AGAIN REAL SOON.

SIGH

I KNOW! WHEN I BUILD A SHIP GREATER THAN OUR FATHERS' DEATH SHADOW!

... AND BECOME THE MEN WE'RE DESTINED TO BE!!!

WHEN WE STEP OUT FROM UNDER THEIR GREAT SHADOWS ...

WHEN I BUILD THE ARCADIA!!!

WOTAN'S FAILED ATTEMPT TO CHANGE THE DESTINIES OF YOUNG HARLOCK AND TOCHIRO OYAMA HAS RESULTED IN A NEW RING OF TIME BEING MADE ... ONE FROM WHICH HIS BELOVED BRUNHILDE IS NOW RETURNING WITH HER SISTER VALKYRIES. THEY HAVE DEFIED THEIR FATHER IN ALLOWING THIS DESTINY TO PROCEED ... AND NOW, THEY MUST PAY THE PRICE FOR THAT DEFIANCE. SUCH IS THEIR DESTINY ....

NINE SHIPS?

MUST BE THE VALKYRIES.

SIR! NINE SHIPS JUST POPPED OUT OF WARP AND ARE FOLLOWING IN OUR WAKE!

THEY HAVE TO ASK?

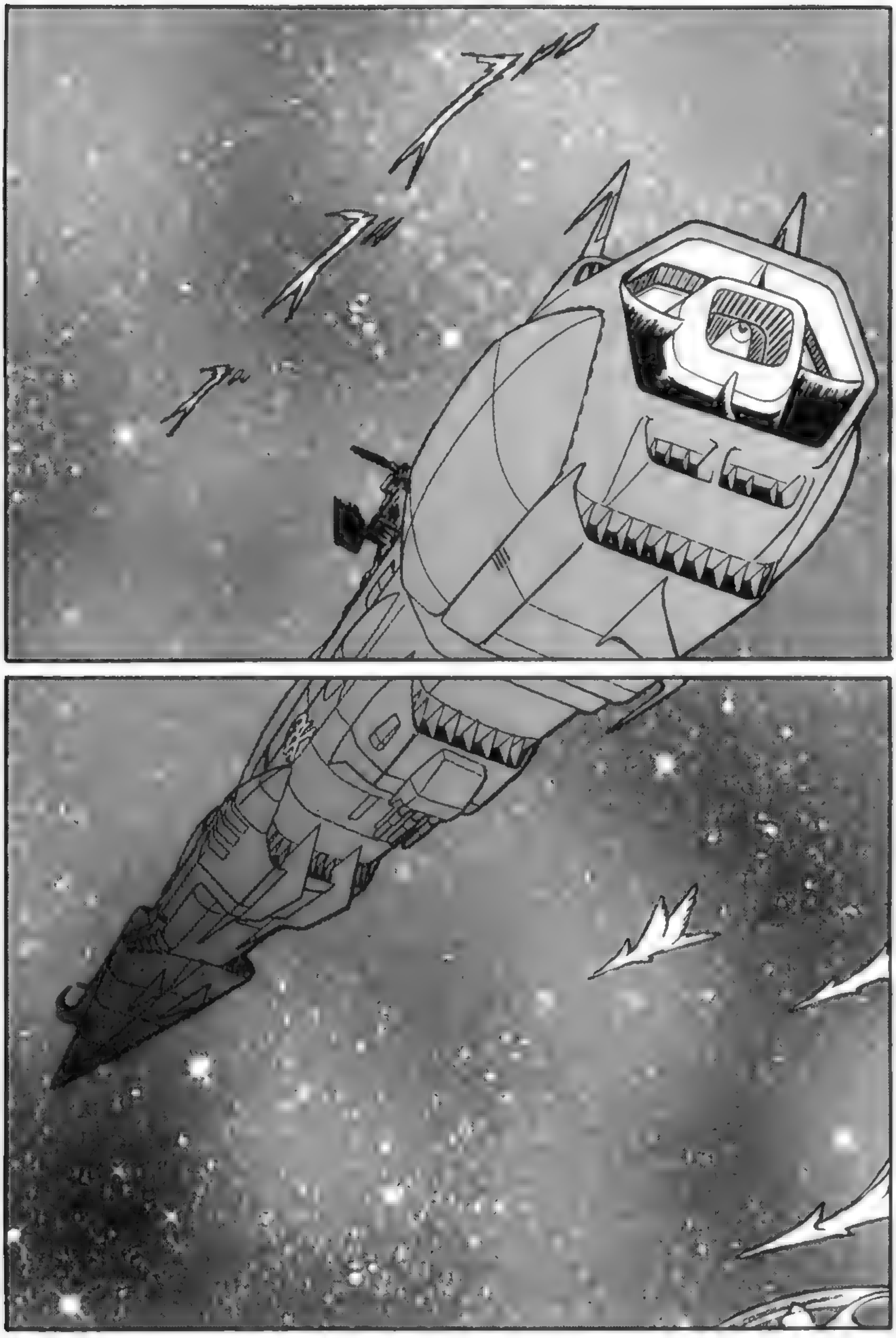
SIR, THEY'RE ASKING PERMISSION TO COME ABOARD AND VISIT THE BRIDGE.

OPEN THE HANGAR BAY!! LET THEM ABOARD!!!

LET'S GIVE THEM A FITTING WELCOME!

I KNOW, TOSHRIO ... BUT IF THEY WANTED US DEAD, THEY'D DESTROYED US AS SOON AS THEY POPPED OUT OF WARP.

ARE YOU *NUTS?!* THESE ARE THE NINE VALKYIRES, YOU KNOW!



PERHAPS ... BUT I'LL TAKE THAT CHANCE. AFTER ALL ...

VALKYRIES DON'T USUALLY ANNOUNCE A VISIT.

MAYBE YOUR LADY FRIEND WANTS A DUEL IN PERSON.

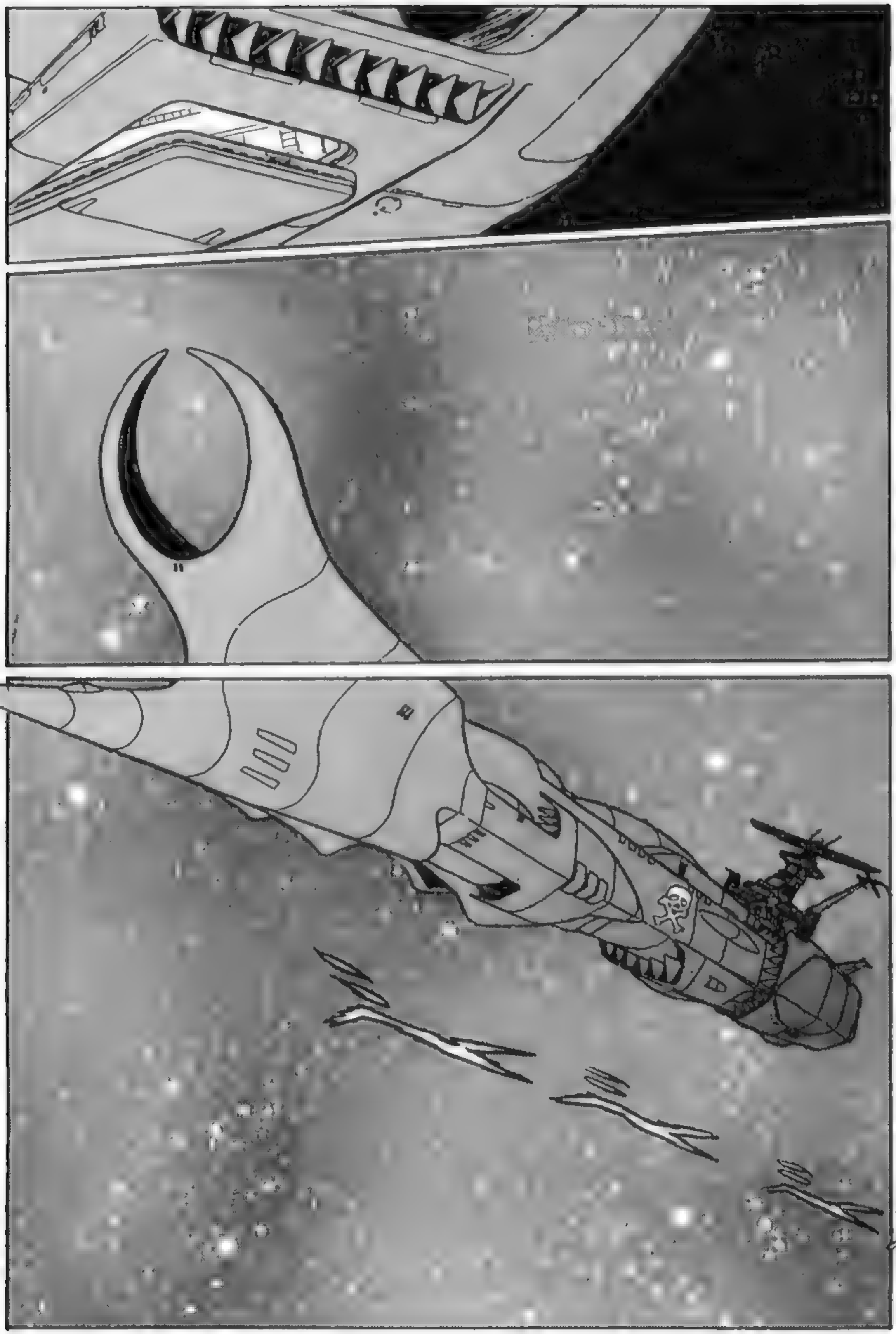
KKKKKKKKKK

O

O O O O O

BOTH FUNCTIONAL AND BEAUTIFUL. A TECHNOLOGY THAT CONFERS GRACE AS WELL AS PURPOSE. FRANKLY, I'M JEALOUS.

GAWD ... THEY'RE BEAUTIFUL ... I MEAN THE SHIPS. WHAT DO SAY, HARLOCK?



THEY APPEAR TO HAVE BOARDED HARLOCK'S SHIP, MY LORD.

THEY DID *WHAT?!!*

AND THEY DIDN'T DESTROY IT?!?! DAMN!!!

ALL NINE VALKYRIE FLYERS WERE SEEN ENTERING THE DEATH SHADOW.

THE REPORT COMES FROM AN OBSERVATION POST IN SOLAR SYSTEM 1113 ...

MY LORD ... WITH THE DESTRUCTION OF THE OTHER COSMIC ORGAN, IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME TO JUDGE.

WHAT IS THEIR EXACT POSITION, FREYA?

WITH THE BENDING OF THIS RING OF TIME, I CAN NO LONGER ATTUNE TO THE PAST ECHO OF THE ORGAN ON THE PLANET RHINE.

THE REPORT SAYS ALL OF THEM ARE ABOARD THE DEATH SHADOW?

I SEE .... VERY WELL, THEN. WE MUST MAKE DO.

I CAN GET THEM ALL -- HARLOCK, OYAMA, THE BOYS, AND MY REBELLIOUS DAUGHTERS IN ONE FELL SWOOP!

THEN THIS IS THE PERFECT CHANCE.

THAT HOUSING FOR THE BROKEN ORGAN, MADE OF UNSHATTERABLE CRYSTAL ...

... WILL BE THEIR COFFIN FOR ALL ETERNITY!!

HERE IS A BOTTLE OF WINE MADE BY MY PEOPLE: "ULTIMATA," ALSO KNOW AS THE MEAD OF THE GODS.

"ULTIMATA!" AN OFFERING OF RESPECT FOR YOU AND YOUR SISTERS!

WE ONLY DRINK IT WITH CLOSE FRIENDS, OR RESPECTED FOES. YOU QUALIFY ON BOTH COUNTS.

... AND TALLIES WITH MY PURPOSE IN COMING HERE. I ... I CAME TO SAY GOODBYE, HARLOCK.

THANK YOU, MIIME. IT IS A FITTING GIFT ...

YES ... WELL, THAT IS TO SAY ...

AND THAT'S ALL?

IF BY "FOOD" YOU MEAN "FORM OF SUSTENANCE," THEN YES. ALTHOUGH WE CAN EAT AND DRINK AS OTHER CORPOREAL RACES, THIS WAS DEVELOPED TO PROVIDE US WITH ALL NOURISHMENT WE NEEDED.

MIIME? THIS IS THE MAIN FOOD ON NIBELHEIM, IS IT NOT?

HE DRINKS AND DREAMS ...

WHY?

INVENTED BY YOUR BROTHER ALBERICH, AS I RECALL. HOW IS THE FORMER REBEL DOING?

... AND A HUMAN NAMED HARLOCK WAS THE ONLY THING THAT STOOD BETWEEN THE GODS AND TOTAL DESTRUCTION.

YOU KNOW, IN THE FUTURE FROM WHENCE I COME, ALBERICH STOLE THE RHINEGOLD AND TOOK ON THE GODS ...

THAT DOES NOT SURPRISE ME IN THE LEAST. FORGIVE ME, BRUNHILDE, BUT YOUR FATHER IS AN IDIOT. HE ALWAYS WAS, AND ALWAYS WILL BE. LETTING THE RHINEGOLD BE STOLEN!

MAY I REMIND YOU, MY LADY, THAT THIS IS MY SHIP? MIIME HAS THE RIGHT TO SPEAK FREELY HERE ... JUST AS YOU DO.

DO NOT INSULT MY FATHER!

AND I SHALL NOT FORGET THE DOOM THAT WAS PROPHESIED FOR VALHALLA AND THE GODS.

YOU ARE RIGHT. FORGIVE ME. BUT NEVER FORGET, MIIME, WHO WON THE ANCIENT WAR ...

TOUCHE.

AND TO THINK, THAT SOMEDAY THE BOTH OF YOU WILL COME TO VALHALLA AND STAND IN THE PRESENCE OF WOTAN!

THEN LET THEM HAVE A DRINK! BUT BE CAREFUL! THIS STUFF CAN GO TO YOUR HEAD!

NOT AT ALL. I ASKED THEM TO WATCH, SO THEY COULD LEARN.

ARE THESE TWO STILL TOO YOUNG FOR DRINK?

THE FUTURE OF THESE TWO YOUNG MEN!!

LET US TOAST THE FUTURE!

MAY YOU CHASE YOUR DREAMS TO YOUR UTTERMOST LIMITS ... AND WHEN THIS BENT RING OF TIME RIGHTS ITSELF ...

SO IT IS SAID BY MY MOTHER, ERDA THE WISE.

YOU KNOW OUR FUTURES? I MEAN, OUR PROBABLE FUTURES? ARE WE STILL GOING TO DESTROY VALHALLA?

... MAY THE FUTURE I SEE FOR BOTH OF YOU STILL COME TRUE!!!

HOW HUMAN .... THANK YOU. DO NOT WORRY ABOUT ME. I ... I WILL BE ... ELSEWHERE. OUR DESTINIES WILL NOT CROSS WHEN THAT DAY COMES.

BUT IF WE DESTROY VALHALLA, WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO YOU? TO YOUR SISTERS? NOW THAT I KNOW YOU, I DON'T WANT YOU HURT!

... LIVE IN THE PRESENT, AND KEEP DREAMING YOUR DREAMS. HOLD THEM CLOSE TO YOUR HEARTS, AND NEVER LET THEM GO. UNTIL THEN!

WHEN YOU ARE ADULTS, AND THE TIME HAS COME FOR YOU TO FULFILL YOUR DESTINIES, ONLY THEN YOU WILL UNDERSTAND. UNTIL THEN ...

TO THE GLORIES OF THE PAST!

AND TO THE DREAMS OF THE FUTURE!

AND ... TO FRIENDS!

WE DRINK TO THE BANNER AND EMBLEM THAT GRACES THE DEATH SHADOW!

THE SIGN OF GREAT HARLOCK AND DR. OYAMA!!! WE DRINK TO FREEDOM!!!

MAY OUR HOPES AND DREAMS BRING US TOGETHER AGAIN IN THE SEA OF STARS!!

TO THE VALKYRIES, AND THEIR LEADER BRUNHILDE!!

THE FUTURE!

YEAH!

CLINK

THE FUTURE!

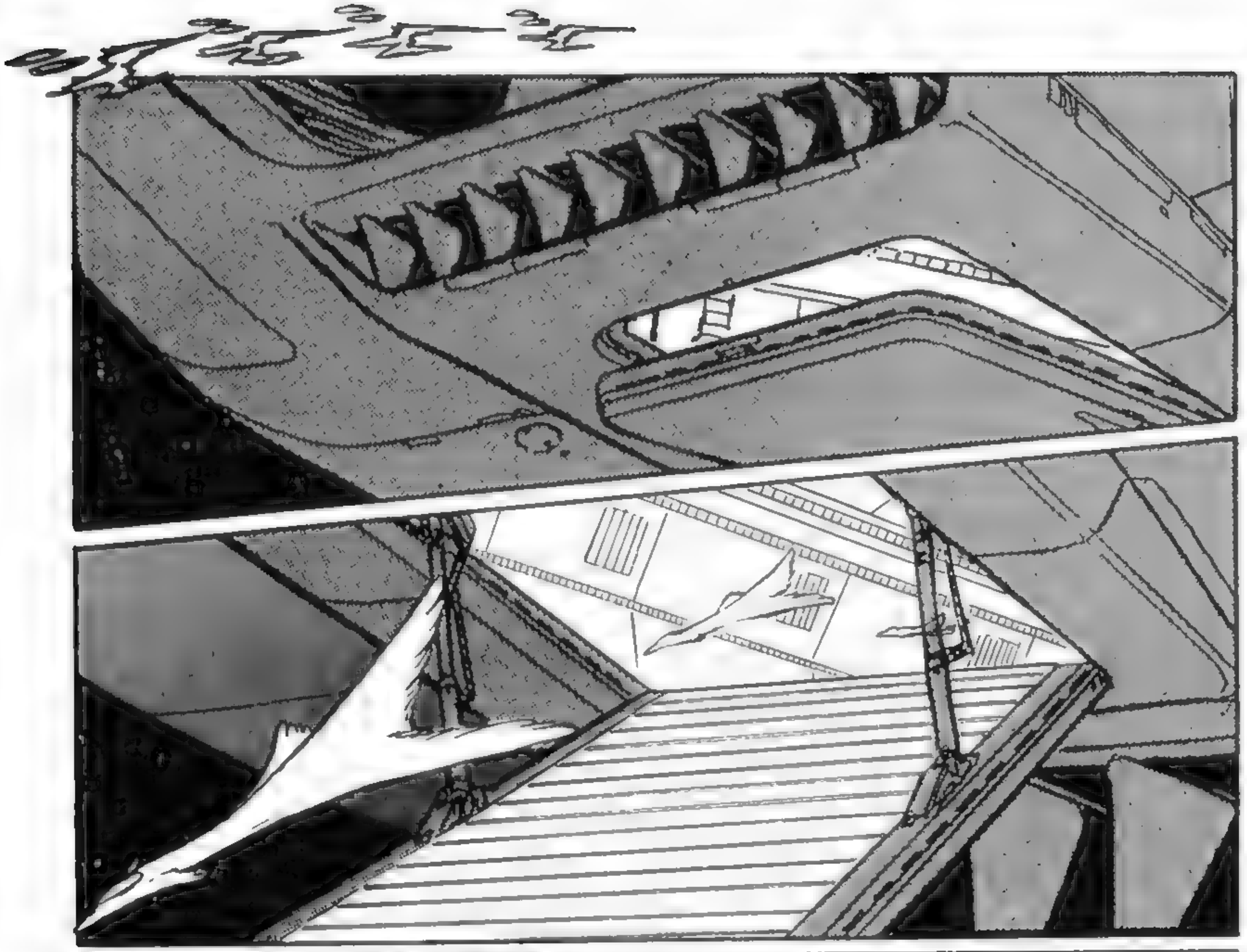
CLINK

TO THE FUTURE!

CLINK

TO THE FUTURE!

CLINK



ISSUE THE RECALL SIGNAL!! FORCE THEM BACK TO VALHALLA!!!
YOU SAY SHE'S LEFT THE DEATH SHADOW?
YES, MY LORD. SO I HAVE BEEN INFORMED.

AND SO ...
EVEN AS THEY LEFT -
THE DEATH SHADOW ...

... THE HORN OF WOTAN SOUNDED IN THE BENT RING OF TIME, AND THE SHIPS OF THE VALKYRIES HEEDED ITS CALL, CARRYING THE SISTERS BACK TO VALHALLA ... AND TO A RECKONING WITH THEIR ANGERED FATHER. BRUNHILDE HAD FORESEEN THIS, AS GREAT HARLOCK HAD GUESSED ... AND THAT IS WHY SHE CAME TO SEE HIM ONE LAST TIME.

The Valkyrie

Ring 34 : An Eternal Crystal Prison

HEEDING THE CALL OF THE HORN OF WOTAN, WHETHER THEIR RIDERS WILLED THEM OR NO, THE MIGHTY STEEDS OF THE VALKYRIES PLUNGED INTO THE ETERNAL DARKNESS ... HEADING BACK TO VALHALLA, AND BEARING THEIR RIDERS TO A RECKONING WITH THEIR ANGRY LORD ... EVEN AS BRUNHILDE HAD FEARED ....

VALHALLA, HOME OF THE GODS ... WHERE AN INFURIATED WOTAN AWAITED THEM ...

IN THE LIMBO, BETWEEN THE RINGS, MY LORD, HEADING BACK AS YOU DECREED.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

OUR AGENT SAYS IT IS "TRANQUIL." NOTHING ABNORMAL.

AND THE DEATH SHADOW?

TO THE VALHALLA THAT WILL BE ... THE ONE OUR SONS WILL BRING DOWN.

WELL, THERE THEY GO ... BACK TO THE FUTURE.

YOU SAID IT, HARLOCK!

NOW, MAYBE, THINGS WILL GO BACK TO NORMAL.

WHAT ... AND MISS OUT ON OUR OWN GRAND ADVENTURE?! LET THEM LIVE THEIR LIVES AND WE'LL LIVE OURS -- WITH NO REGRETS.

I'M ALMOST JEALOUS OF OUR BOYS.

NO, MY LORD. STILL ON COURSE.

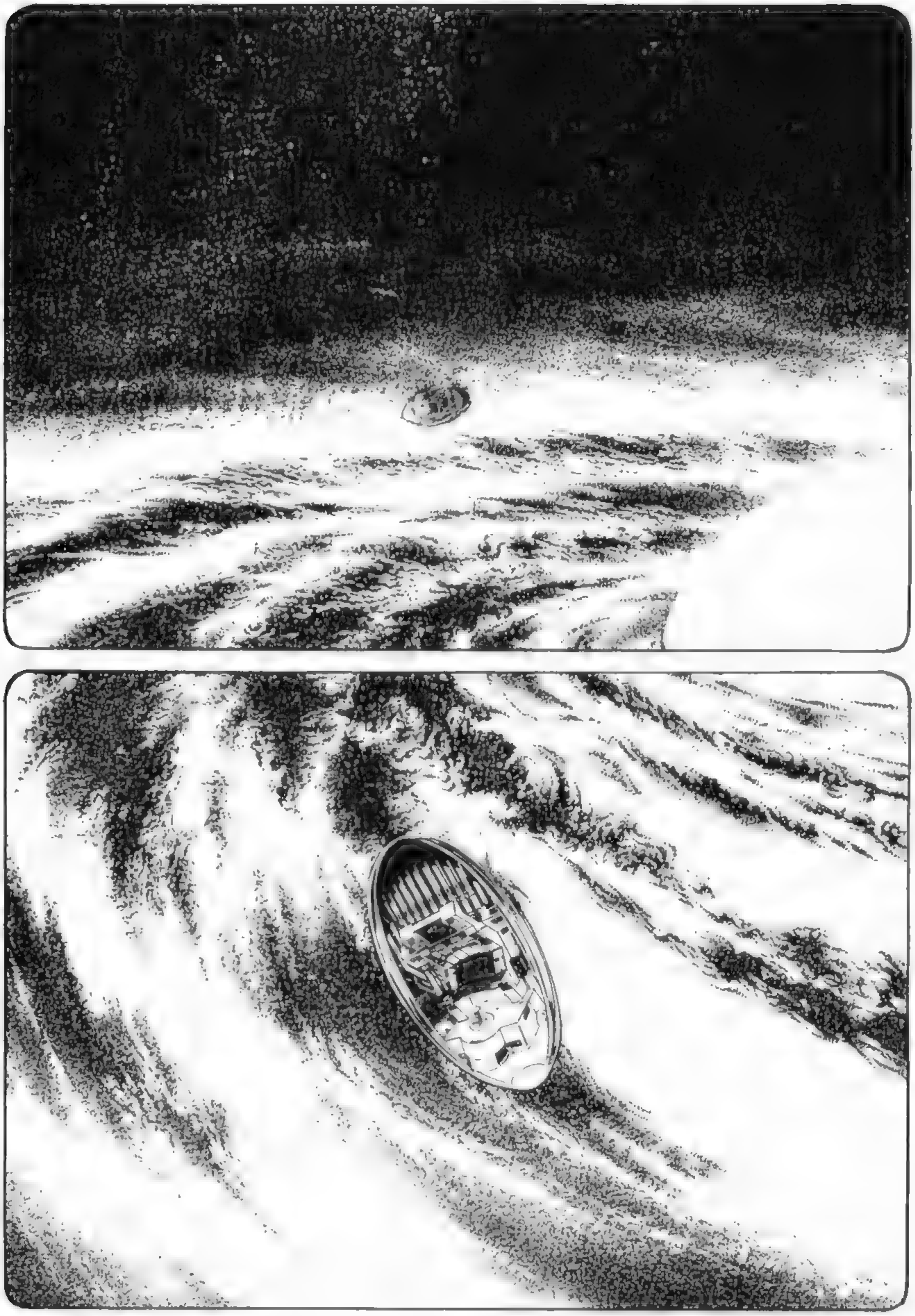
ANY CHANGE IN THEIR COURSE? ARE THEY STILL HEADING BACK THIS WAY?

THAT WAY, I COULD HAVE IMPRISONED BOTH HIM AND MY DAUGHTER IN THE SAME CELL FOR ALL ETERNITY!

I WISH MY SIGNAL HAD WORKED ON GREAT HARLOCK'S SHIP.

YES, MY LORD!

DAMN THAT BENT RING! AND YOU! MAKE SURE THE OTHER ORGAN ARRIVES BEFORE MY DAUGHTERS!



PERHAPS I SHOULD SHOOT THEM INTO A NEW-BORN SUN ...

... NO ... I HAVE A BETTER IDEA. A BLACK HOLE. YES ... MOST FITTING ....

LORD WOTAN! THE VALKYRIES ARE ON FINAL APPROACH!!

YES, MY LORD.

FREYA ... YOU ARE THE YOUNGER SISTER OF MIIME AND ALBERICH. CAN YOU SENSE WHERE YOUR SIBLINGS ARE?

ALBERICH IS IN NIBELHEIM. MIIME ... THE ONE OF OUR TIME ... IS WITH HARLOCK ON THE ARCADIA, IN THE LESSER MAGELLANIC CLOUD.

GOOD ... THEN BOTH ARE IN A POSITION TO WITNESS WHAT I SHALL DO TO THE VALKYRIES ....

AND LET THEM BEWARE, LEST EITHER OF THEM AGAIN THREATEN THE HOME OF THE GODS!!!

I WISH YOU'D HAVE COME AND PICKED ME UP SOONER!!!

AND ALL OF THIS HAPPENED WHILE I WAS BACK ON EARTH UNMAKING THE RING?!

TIME AFTER TIME, YOU LET EACH AND EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO SAVE VALHALLA SLIP FROM YOUR GRASP ... NO ... YOU LET THEM GO ....

BRUNHILDE ... I'M DISAPPOINTED IN YOU ....

I SENT YOU AND YOUR SISTERS TO KILL THOSE HUMANS, AND THUS ENSURE THE INVINCIBILITY OF VALHALLA, AND WHAT DO YOU DO? FALL IN LOVE ... WITH A ***HUMAN!***

THE DEATH SHADOW WOULD BE BUT A MORTAL MEMORY BY NOW, HAD YOU DONE AS I ORDERED!!

MY LORD? THE DEATH SHADOW HAS TURNED AWAY FROM THE RIM AND IS SKIRTING THE GREAT REEF NEAR THE MAZELAN NEBULA ...

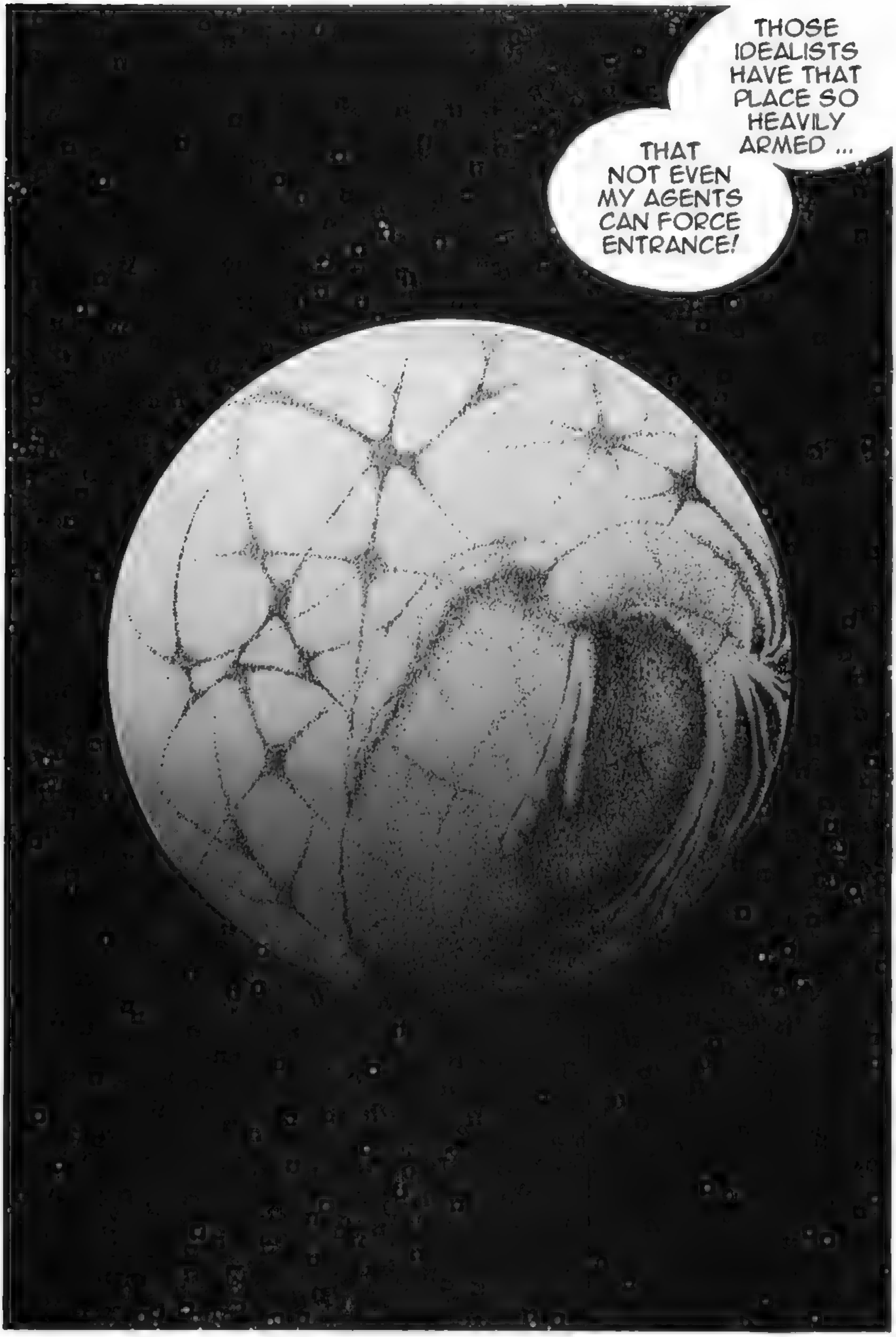
IF IT KEEPS ITS CURRENT COURSE ...

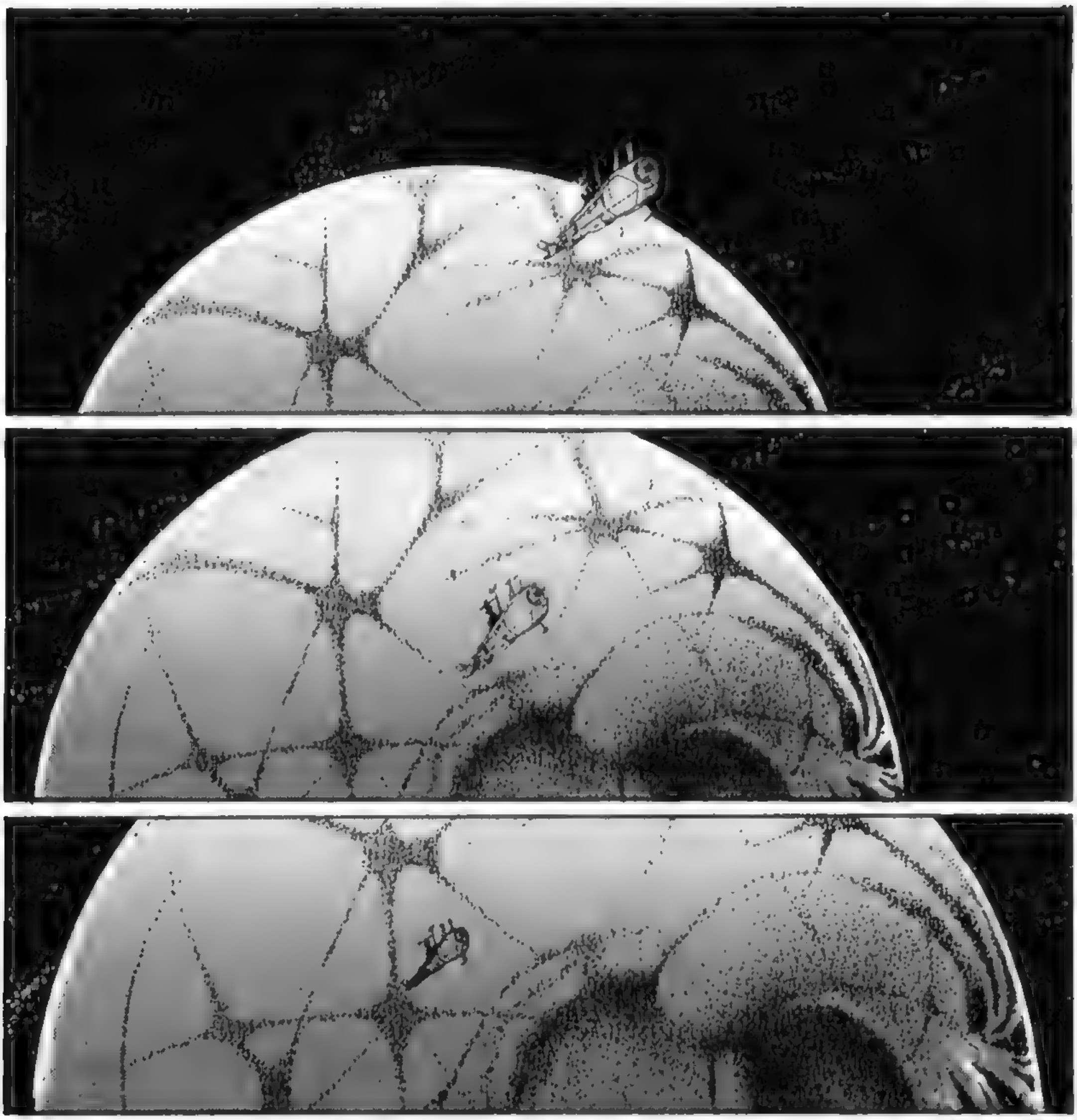
IT WILL REACH TECHNOLOGIA IN A FEW DAYS.*

THAT PLANET OF DREAMERS? THE DEATH SHADOW IS GOING THERE?!

THE ONE PLACE WHERE HUMANS, HUMANOIDS, ALIEN SPECIES, AND EVEN MACHINE MEN ARE TRYING TO BUILD A WORLD WHERE THEY CAN LIVE TOGETHER PEACEFULLY?!

(*) - THE SAME HI-TECH WORLD FEATURED IN SOME OF THE STORIES OF *COSMO WARRIOR ZERO* AND *GALAXY EXPRESS 999 ETERNAL FANTASY*.


THOSE IDEALISTS HAVE THAT PLACE SO HEAVILY ARMED ...
THAT NOT EVEN MY AGENTS CAN FORCE ENTRANCE!



I SHALL SEND SOMEONE MORE CAPABLE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THEM!

SO THE DEATH SHADOW HAS ITS FLAWS.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, FATHER?

MORE CAPABLE?

... BRUNHILDE ...

IT WAS NOT THE RIGHT THING TO DO.

WHY DID YOU SPARE THE LIVES OF THOSE HUMANS WHEN I HAD ORDERED YOU TO KILL THEM ALL?!?!

RIGHT? I AM THE LORD OF VALHALLA! I SAY WHAT IS RIGHT AND WRONG IN THE UNIVERSE!!! FREYA! THE ORGAN!!

SINCE ALL OF YOU HAD MULTIPLE CHANCES TO DESTROY THE DEATH SHADOW, AND CHOSE NOT TO, THEN I MUST PUNISH YOU ALL!

IN HERE, ALL OF YOU WILL BE SEALED IN ETERNAL SLUMBER, WITH NO HOPE OF ESCAPE!!!

THIS IS THE CRYSTAL CASKET OF THE BROKEN COSMIC ORGAN.

... FATHER ...

SHUT UP, FRICKA! I'M NOT IN THE MOOD!!!

AH, SO YOUR DISOBEDIENT DAUGHTERS HAVE RETURNED! IT'S ABOUT TIME--

BUT INSTEAD, YOU "MADE FRIENDS" WITH THE ENEMIES OF THE GODS, AND PERHAPS MORE, IF WHAT SABELLA SAYS IS RIGHT!!!

SAVING VALHALLA WAS THE WHOLE POINT OF YOUR MISSION!!!

YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO CHANGE HISTORY, NOT HELP IT ALONG! BY THE GODS, WHAT WERE YOU THINKING?!?!

DO YOU REALIZE WHAT YOU'VE DONE TO US, GIRL?!!

SEE?! SEE?!?! HARLOCK IS STILL HERE!! YOU DIDN'T DO A DAMN THING TO CHANGE HIS PAST!! WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO SAY, BRUNHILDE?!?!

THOSE FOUR HAVE A SPECIAL DESTINY IN THE HISTORY OF THE UNIVERSE. AND IF MOTHER HAS TOLD ME IS TRUE ABOUT SUCH THINGS ...

FATHER ...

YES, I CARE FOR THAT HUMAN, FATHER ... AND SAD TO SAY, HE IS MORE OF A MAN THAN YOU.

... THEN YOU ARE A FOOL TO EVEN THINK ABOUT TRYING TO ALTER OR CHANGE IT.

WELL, YOU AND YOUR SISTERS WILL HAVE ALL OF ETERNITY TO THINK ABOUT IT!!

I AM THE LORD OF VALHALLA!!! RULER OF THE UNIVERSE!!! HOW DARE YOU SPEAK TO ME LIKE THAT, GIRL!!!

HOW DARE YOU!!!

I WILL NOT PUT UP WITH THIS KIND OF INSOLENCE, NOT EVEN FROM MY OWN FLESH AND BLOOD!!!!!

IT WAS SAID THAT NEITHER BRUNHILDE NOR ANY OF HER SISTERS EITHER BEGGED FOR MERCY OR CRIED OUT AS WOTAN'S POWER ENVELOPED THEM, AND IMPRISONED THEM ALL WITHIN THE CRYSTAL CASKET HOLDING THE BROKEN ORGAN OF VALHALLA. IT IS ALSO SAID THAT FREYA LOOKED AWAY, UNABLE TO BEAR THE SORROW IN HER HEART AT THAT MOMENT ... FOR SHE ALSO KNEW THAT HER PART WOULD CONTINUE IN THIS SAD DRAMA, EVEN IF THE VALKYRIES NO LONGER HAD A ROLE. AND AS SHE RESUMED HER PLAYING AT THE NEW COSMIC ORGAN, SHE KNEW THAT NOT EVEN WOTAN COULD DEFY THE POWER OF FATE -- EVEN AS BRUNHILDE HAD SAID.

The Valkyrie

Ring 35 : A Vision of the Future

TAKE WORD OF THIS DEED TO GREAT HARLOCK ABOARD THE DEATH SHADOW! I WANT HIM TO KNOW THIS DEED!

GO, FREY'A!

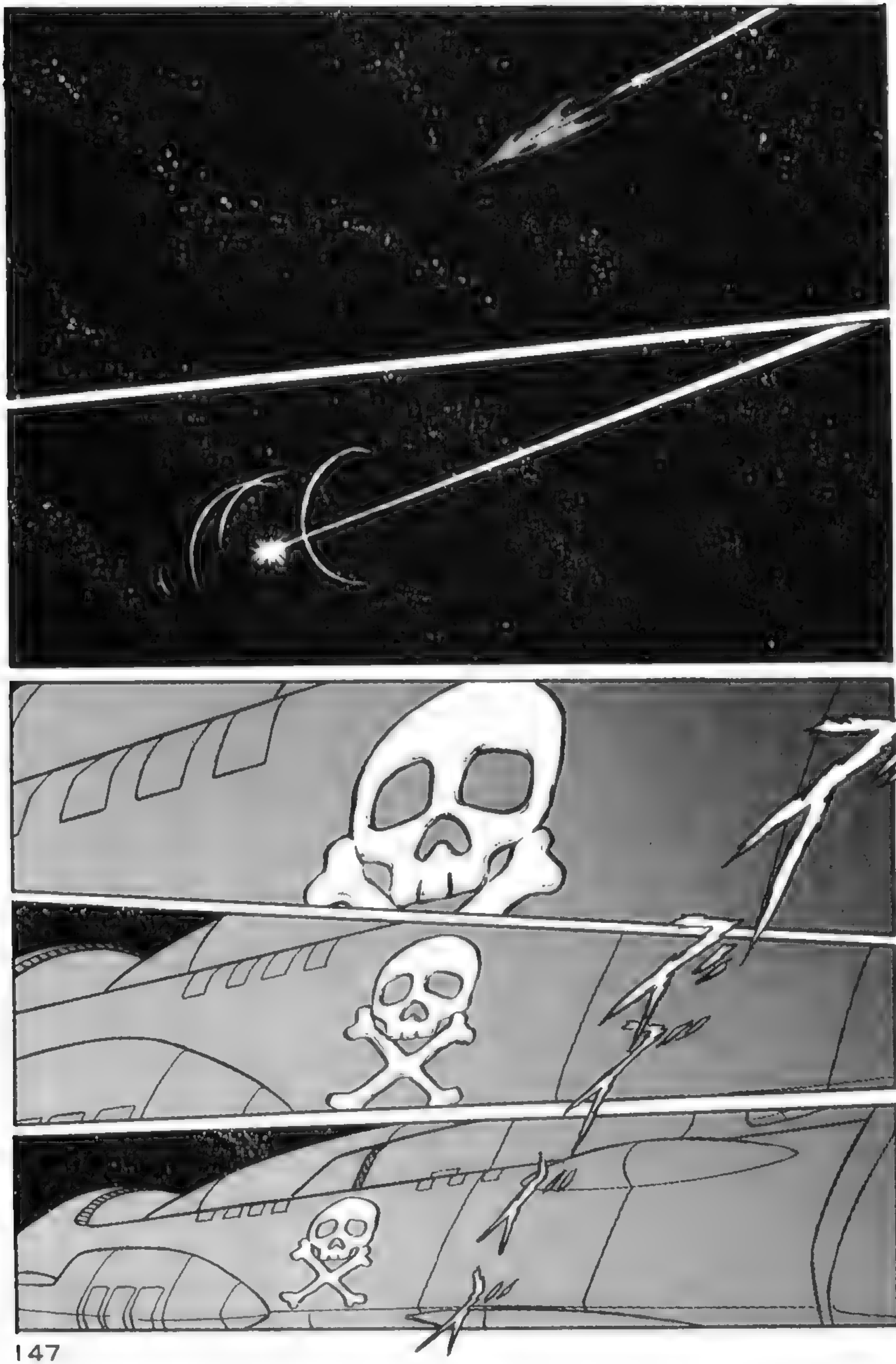
AT ONCE, MY LORD.

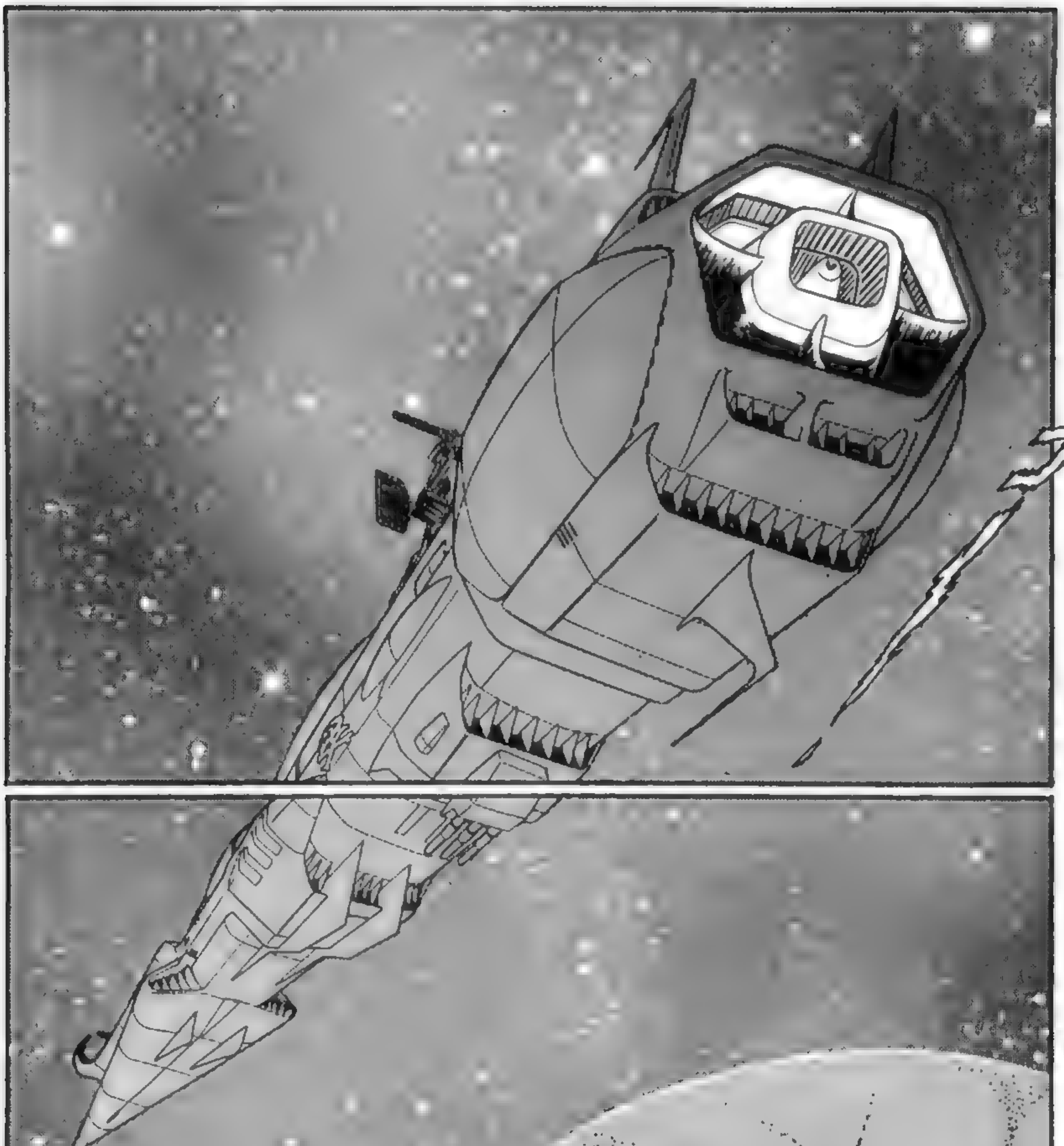
BRUNHILDE ...

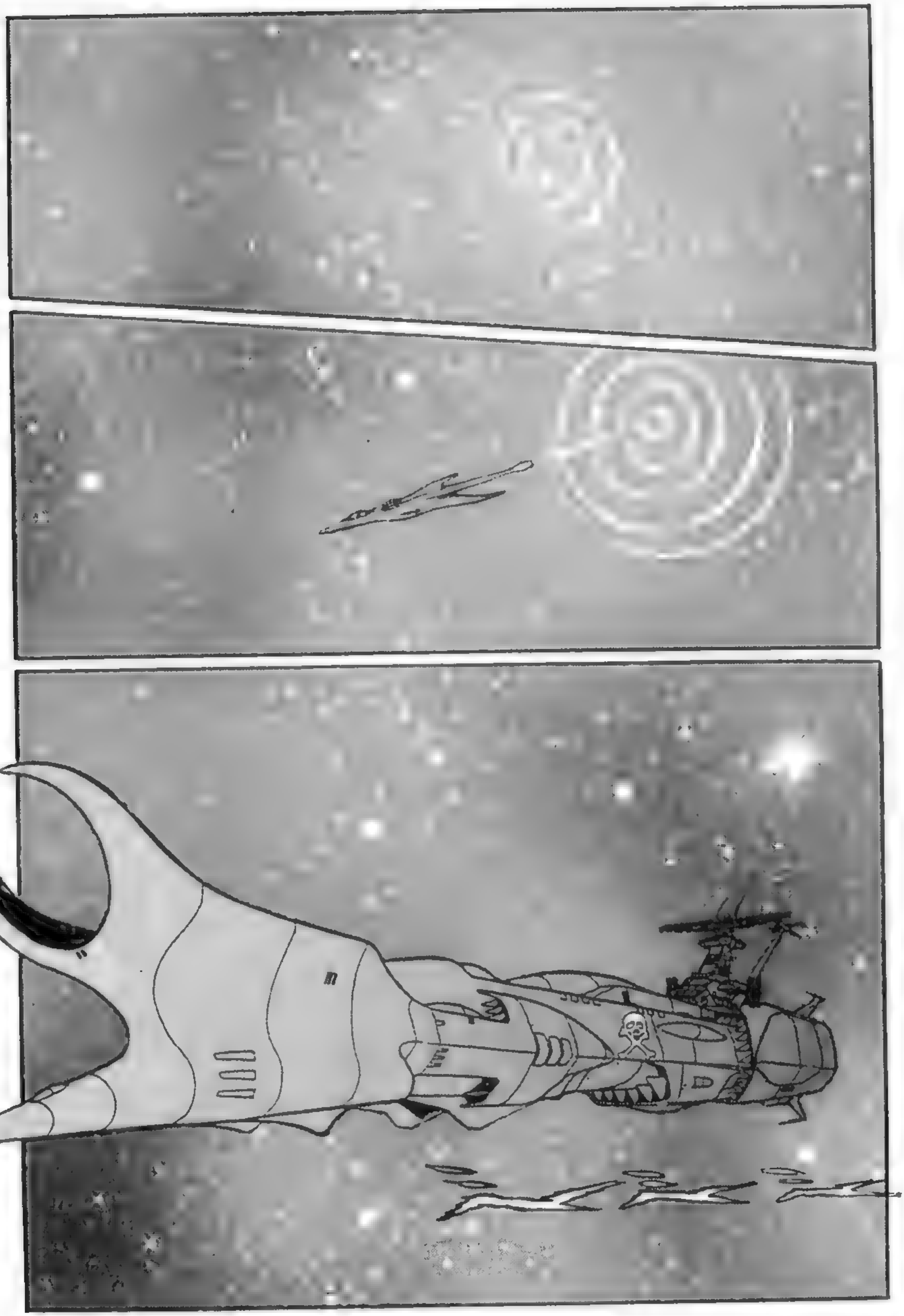
FORGIVE ME ...

... BUT I LACK YOUR COURAGE.

BRUNHILDE ... WHY DID YOU MAKE ME DO THIS, GIRL?







... BUT AT LEAST THE SPACEPORT'S DONE, SO THEIR REPAIR FACILITIES SHOULD BE UP TO DATE.

THAT'S GOOD TO HEAR. GO AHEAD AND CALL TECHNOLOGIA FOR LANDING CLEARANCE.

SOUNDS LIKE SOMEBODY'S IN A BIG HURRY.

WHOA ... ! A SMALL SHIP JUST POPPED OUT OF WARP RIGHT BEHIND US!

I'M PICKING UP A MESSAGE .... HARLOCK, YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BELIEVE THIS ...

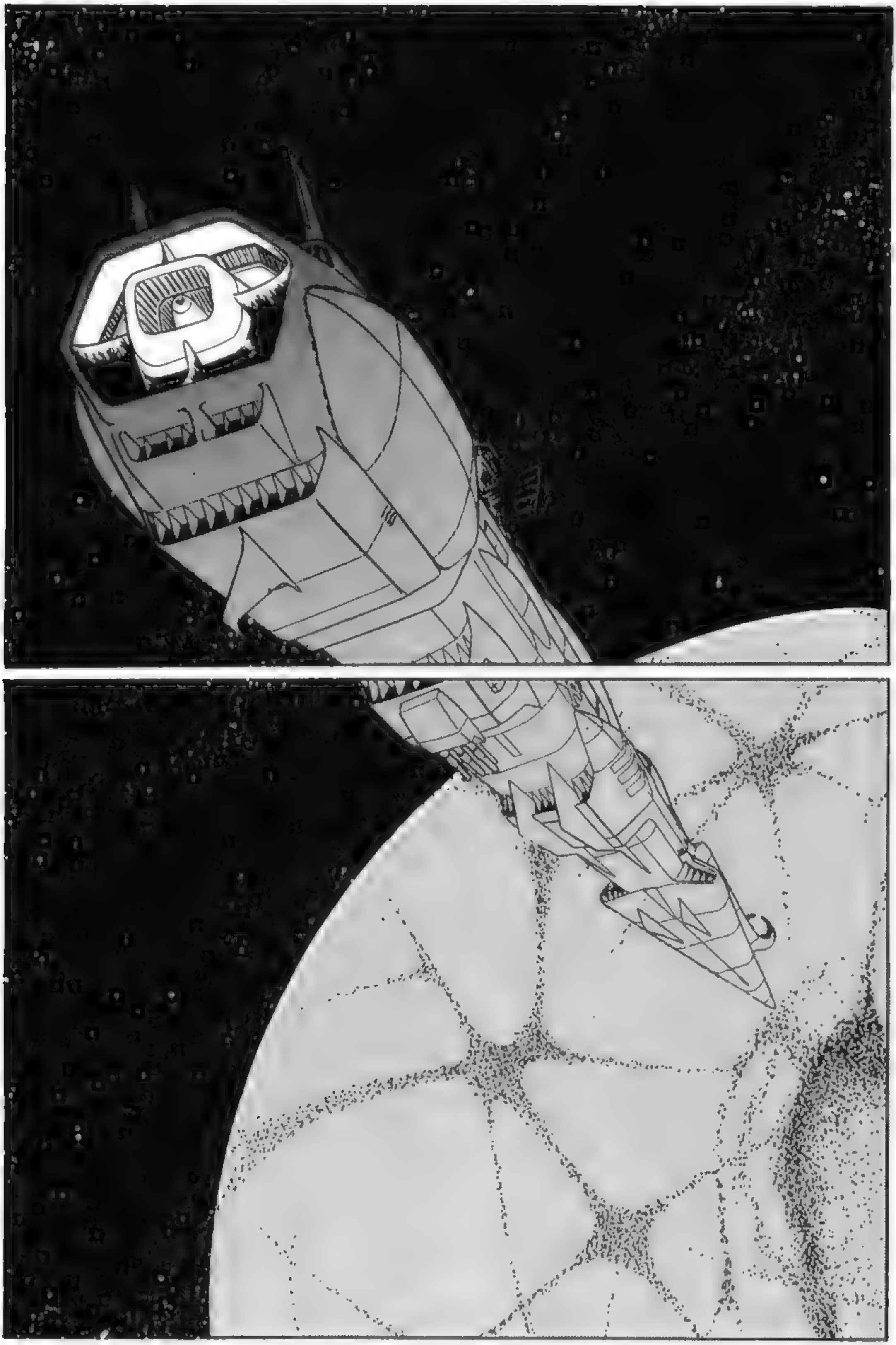
UH-HUH. THE PILOT SAYS SHE'S SOME KIND OF SPECIAL EMMISARY OR SOMETHING FROM OL' LORD WOTAN HIMSELF!

LET ME GUESS. IT'S A SHIP FROM VALHALLA.

BETTER LET HER ON BOARD AND SEE WHAT SHE WANTS.

MY, BUT AREN'T WE MOVING UP IN THE WORLD?

I DUNNO, HARLOCK. SHE MAY BE TRYING TO DO THE JOB BRUNHILDE COULDN'T. WOTAN'S JUST ENOUGH NUTS TO TRY THAT.



PERHAPS WE SHOULD RAISE OUR SHIELDS. WHAT DO YOU THINK?

NAH. DON'T BOTHER.

THAT SHIP IS ARMED.

IF THAT SHIP IS ARMED THE SAME, THEN OUR LAYERED DURATEKTITE ARMOR ALONE CAN HANDLE ANYTHING THEY'VE GOT.

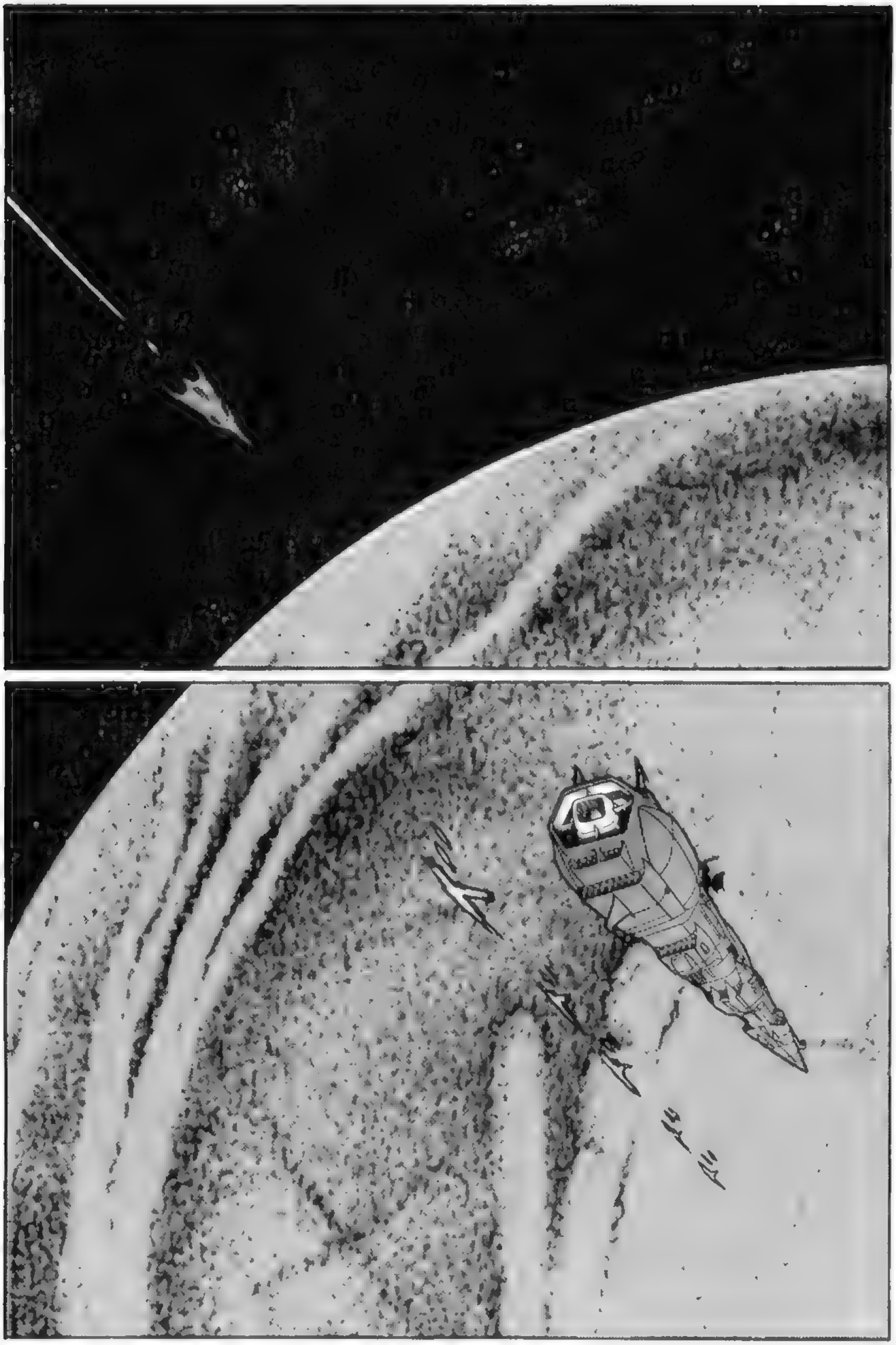
... AND THEIR ENERGY WEAPONS WERE ABOUT THE SAME AS OURS.

BECAUSE I GOT A GOOD LOOK AT THE VALKYRIE SHIPS DURING THEIR VISIT ...

AND WHY NOT?

SHE HAS THAT SAME RING IN HER VOICE AS DID THE VALKYRIES. I DON'T THINK SHE'S A SUICIDE JOCKEY, HARLOCK. LET HER IN.

REMEMBER HOW THE METANOIDS DAMAGED US?



SHE'S CALLING US AGAIN. I'LL PATCH IT THROUGH THE SPEAKER.

LOOKS LIKE YOU WERE RIGHT. SHE HASN'T FIRED ON US YET.

PERMISSION GRANTED ...

DEATH SHADOW! I AM A MESSENGER FROM VALHALLA. MAY I BE ALLOWED TO COME ABOARD?

... AND I'D PREFER TO STAY ALIVE.

... PROVIDED YOU COME IN PEACE. THE LAST EMISSARY YOU SENT HAD ORDERS TO KILL US ...

SAVE THE OATHS. I BELIEVE YOU.

I COME IN PEACE, GREAT HARLOCK. I SWEAR BY LORD WOTAN--

THAT ... THAT LOOKS LIKE MY SISTER FREYA'S FLYER!

WOW ... WE MUST REALLY BE IMPORTANT!

ANOTHER VISITOR FROM VALHALLA?

WHY WOULD VALHALLA SEND US AN ORGANIST, MIIME? THAT DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE.

I HAVEN'T SEEN HER SINCE I LEFT VALHALLA. I TAUGHT HER TO PLAY THE COSMIC ORGAN. SHE TOOK MY PLACE THERE.

AFRAID? OF WHAT? OUR FATHERS AREN'T AFRAID!

I KNOW. IT MAKES NO SENSE ... AND THAT IS WHY I AM AFRAID.

THE DEATH SHADOW IS MIGHTY IN THIS RING OF TIME, BUT THE GODS ARE MIGHTIER STILL ...

BUT THEY DO NOT KNOW WOTAN. I DO. THAT IS WHY I FEAR.

XIX

I SHOULD KNOW!

... YET IT IS NOT FREYA WE MIGHT HAVE TO FIGHT. SHE IS INCAPABLE OF HARMING ANY LIVING THING.

I AM NOT. I AM THE PLAYER OF THE COSMIC ORGAN. MY NAME IS FREYA.

YOU DON'T LOOK LIKE A WARRIOR.

I TAKE IT YOU'VE ALREADY MET MY FUTURE ADULT SELF?

AND THE SHORT ONE, WHO TRIED TO PROTECT ME!

?!?

FROM *OUR* FUTURE, DON'T YOU MEAN?

YOU ... !

AS DID BRUNHILDE, I ALSO COME FROM THE FUTURE.

SINCE THIS RING OF TIME IS NOW BENT, THERE IS NO HARM IN REVEALING THIS TO YOU! BEHOLD YOUR ARCADIA!!!

SEE THIS IMAGE? IT IS THE VESSEL IN WHICH THE BOTH OF YOU CAME TO THE VALHALLA OF MY DAY AND SAVED IT!!

BLOODY FREAKIN' HELL!!!

IT'S THE ARCADIA, HARLOCK!! I'M GONNA BUILD IT!!!

UHH, YEAH. SURE.

I'D LIKE TO ASK BOTH OF YOU A COUPLE OF QUESTIONS.

WHAT DO THE BOTH OF YOU PLAN TO DO WITH YOUR LIVES?

I'M GOING TO USE ALL MY TALENTS TO MAKE THAT SHIP YOU SHOWED US, SO THAT TRUTH AND JUSTICE CAN PREVAIL IN THE UNIVERSE!

OH, THAT'S EASY. I'M GOING TO BE THE GREATEST STARSHIP ENGINEER THAT EVER LIVED!

BUT FIRST, WE'RE GOING BACK TO EARTH TO GET THE DAGGER DAD LEFT FOR US IN THAT OFFICE, TO SHOW THE UNIVERSE OUR TIME HAS COME!

AND I'M GOING TO BE THE CAPTAIN OF THAT SHIP, AND UNDER THE SKULL AND CROSSBONES WILL FIGHT FOR FREEDOM!

AFTER THAT? FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT FOR ALL BEINGS TO LIVE THEIR LIVES AS THEY SO CHOOSE! THAT'S WHAT I'M GOING TO DO!!

WILL YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO DEFEAT THEM? DO YOU HAVE THE SELF-CONFIDENCE TO KEEP UP THE FIGHT, NO MATTER HOW LONG OR HARD IT MAY BE?

SECOND QUESTION. THE METANOIDS ARE NOW YOUR ENEMIES.

IT DOESN'T MATTER IF IT'S A YEAR, TEN YEARS, OR WHATEVER -- WE WILL FIGHT TO THE FINISH, NO MATTER WHAT!

WE ARE ALREADY COMMITTED TO THAT FIGHT, AND WE WILL BE EVEN STRONGER AS ADULTS THAN WE ARE TODAY!

I SEE ....

THAT'S ALL I WANTED TO KNOW.

GREAT HARLOCK ... DR. OYAMA ... I AM BID BY LORD WOTAN TO TELL YOU THAT HE HAS DECREED PUNISHMENT FOR HIS DAUGHTER BRUNHILDE, FOR GIVING YOU AID AND SUCCOR INSTEAD OF SLAYING BOTH YOU AND YOUR SONS, AS SHE WAS BID.

SHE AND HER NINE SISTERS HAVE BEEN IMPRISONED IN A CRYSTAL CASKET OF ETERNAL SLEEP. IT HAS BEEN HURLED INTO THE SAME BLACK HOLE THAT PROTECTS THE LOST PLANET RHINE.

NO.

DID HE TELL YOU TO TELL ME THAT LAST PART?

YOU KNOW THE LEGEND OF THE PLANET RHINE ... BUT I'VE SAID TOO MUCH. I SHOULD GO, LEST LORD WOTAN FIND ME OUT.

YOU SEE, IN MY TIME, THE PLANET RHINE HAS BEEN FREED FROM THE BLACK HOLE ... WHICH MEANS SOMEONE MUST HAVE FOUND THEIR WAY IN ORDER TO LET IT OUT ....

YOU'RE NOT FATED TO FIND IT, GREAT HARLOCK -- PLEASE DON'T ASK! I REALLY SHOULD GO NOW.

WHAT'S ON RHINE, FREYA?

THE DAY WILL COME WHEN IT WILL BE NO MORE, BUT NOT TODAY. I MUST RETURN. MY SISTER UNDERSTANDS.

THANK YOU, BUT I HAVE OTHER DUTIES IN VALHALLA. IT IS MY HOME ... FOR NOW, AT LEAST.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO BACK, FREYA! YOU CAN STAY HERE WITH MIIME!!

GOOD-BYE.

SHE IS PART OF YOUR SET DESTINY. TREAT HER WELL, AND HAVE AS MANY CHILDREN AS YOU CAN.

OH, YOUNG HARLOCK? YOU WILL SOON MEET A GIRL NAMED MAYA.

UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN!

FARE-WELL!

HOW LONG DO I HAVE TO WAIT?!

WHA ... ?!

AND A BAR AND SOME DRINKS FOR ME!!!

NEXT STOP, PLANET TECHNOLOGIA!

PREPARE FOR ATMOS-PHERIC ENTRY!

TIME PASSES .... THE RINGS OF TIME MOVE EVER ON IN THEIR COURSES, SWEEPING EVERYTHING WITHIN ALONG THE PATH THAT DESTINY HAS SET WITHIN. GREAT HARLOCK ... DR. OYAMA ... THEIR TWO BOYS ... THE VALKYRIES ... AND EVEN EMERALDAS AND MAETEL ... ALL HAVE THEIR SET PLACES IN THE PATH OF DESTINY. THE EXACT TIMES AND DETAILS MAY CHANGE, BUT THEIR DESTINIES NEVER CHANGE. WOTAN HAS TRIED AND FAILED TO CHANGE THIS BY BENDING THEIR RING OF TIME ... AND IN SO DOING, HAS CREATED A NEW RING IN WHICH THE HISTORY IS SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT, BUT THE END RESULTS ARE STILL THE SAME. DESTINY HAS NOT CHANGED. THE HEAVY HAND OF FATE HAS NOT BEEN SWAYED ... AND THE STAGE IS EVEN NOW BEING SET FOR THE DRAMA OF THE RING ... AND THE DOWNFALL OF VALHALLA ITSELF.

The Valkyrie

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